

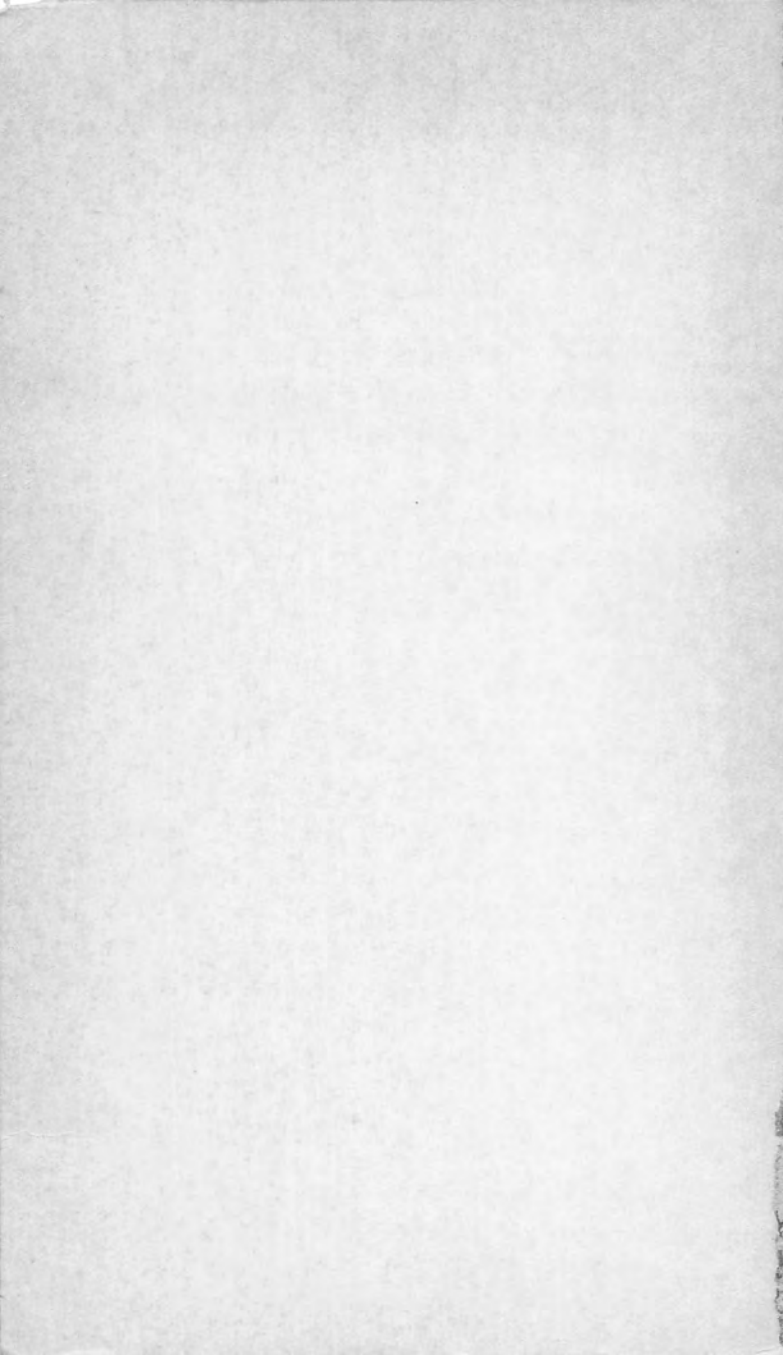


SO YOU THINK YOU **KNOW** BASEBALL!



A championship collection of
baseball brain twisters from the popular
Saturday Evening Post series by

HARRY SIMMONS



BATTER UP!

If you think you're ready to stand up with the experts and belt out some solid answers to some tricky questions on baseball rules, try swinging at these for a warm-up session.

What happens when the player supposed to come to bat is already on base?

Impossible? Not at all. There *is* a playing rule that covers the situation. Ready for your next one?

Okay, take this. A batter hits a home run—a clean, legal homer—yet his club fails to win the game because he hit it.

Or, he hits a home run that doesn't count—and his club wins the game because of it.

Such plays can and do happen in professional baseball. The answers to the above problems and all the others in this book are based on the Official Playing Rules and on major league and other official interpretations.

*The Crest imprint on outstanding fiction and nonfiction
is your guarantee of exciting and entertaining reading.*

**SO YOU
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BASEBALL!**

A Crest Special

By HARRY SIMMONS



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Umpiring As You'd Like It

One of the joys of watching baseball is that everybody seems to know everything about the game and that everybody feels he can do a better job than any umpire any day.

Yet ask a "grandstand arbiter" what he would do if the player supposed to come to bat next was the base-runner standing out there in full possession of second base. Chances are he'd look at you as though you were insane and deny that it could happen. But it can happen. Moreover, it has happened! There is even a rule to cover such a monstrosity.

No matter how zany, how highly improbable or unlikely, hardly anything is impossible in baseball. Take a pair of paradoxes such as these:

A batter hits a home run, a clean, legal homer which counts as a run—yet his club fails to win the game just because he hit it.

Or take a batter who hit a home run which doesn't count—and his club wins the game because of it.

Such plays have happened—and in professional baseball, at that.

Making the laws of baseball requires the closest kind of analysis and research. How important such study is may be found in modifications made in one phase of the balk rule in the last few years. For a century and more, a balk was a balk whether the batter hit the ball safely or

not. Of course, there can be no balk unless there are runners on base.

The *Saturday Evening Post* had a play, based on an actual major league incident, in which the batter hit a balk pitch for a home run. Under the existing rule, the umpire nullified the homer, advanced each runner one base and sent the unhappy batter back to the plate.

This seemed unfair to the rules makers. In a revolutionary move (the first time baseball ever borrowed anything from football) the manager was given the option of taking "either the balk penalty or the result of the batter's action."

This set up a hypothetical play for the *Post* series the following year. Suppose the Giants trail, 7-3, bottom of the ninth, two out, bases full. The batter hits a balk pitch far and deep. The three runners score but the batter himself is out trying to stretch his belt into a home run. Do the Giants lose, 7-6?

Of course not—not yet, anyway. Given his choice now, the Giant manager will elect to take the balk and another chance to get back into the game. The batter, with a triple and three RBI washed out, may be unhappy, but——.

It was clear that the pendulum had a hitch in its swing. The following year there was another change in the rule—and another loophole. The new decree held that the batter's action on a balk pitch must count if he "reached first base on a hit, an error or otherwise, and all runners advanced one base . . ."

The next year's *Post* series carried a new twister. Suppose a runner is on second and the batter hits a balk pitch for a home run. Unhappily, the runner on second fails to touch third base on his way home, an omission noted by the eagle eyes of the third baseman and the umpire.

The grinning, jogging batter scores his run, but a new ball is brought out to third base and appeal is made for the umpire to call the careless runner out. It is so ruled.

Since the runner failed to advance a base, the umpire now had to nullify the out as well as the home run, rule the pitch a balk, send the resurrected runner on to third base and the batter back to bat.

That loophole was plugged the following year. The present rule makes the point that "a runner who misses the first base to which he is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of the rule" (Section 8.05m).

Unusual plays have intrigued ball fans from the very beginning of the national pastime. The earliest stumper, from the *New York Clipper* of July 17, 1858, went like this:

ROXBURY—*Baseball*. While playing this game a few days since, one of the players, who was batter at the time, having but missed batting the ball three times, started running to the first goal. In running there, he—not thinking—carried the bat with him.

The catcher, not having caught the ball . . . threw it meaning to put him out; but the ball struck the bat and glanced off. The person who was running to the goal did not try to prevent the ball's [flight] by putting the bat in the way, since he was not looking at the ball, but was trying to reach the base as soon as possible. Now, was the person who was running out?

In answer, the *Clipper* reasoned that the batter would not have made the base "but for the bat, which he had no business to carry; consequently he was out."

Nonetheless there never has been a rule which prohibited the batter from carrying his bat to first base—or around the bases for that matter.

Perhaps because of just such a play, there has been on every ball field since the 1870s a chalk line three feet outside the first-base foul line and running parallel to it from midway between home and first up to the bag. A batter going to first base, if the play on him is being made from behind, must run inside these "three foot lines" to avoid interfering with a throw to the baseman. If a batter is hit while out of the lane, he is out.

Almost all of an umpire's calls are judgment decisions from which there is no appeal. Arguing ball-strike, fair-foul or safe-out decisions will gain you nothing but another withholding entry on your pay check. But in awarding bases on interference and obstruction, or handling appeals for failure to tag up or touch a base, the umpire must be prepared to back up his call by citing chapter and verse of the rules.

Non-judgment decisions, involving application of rules, are subject to protest and review. If the umpire errs here, his league president may order the game replayed from the point of dispute. With this in mind, it has been suggested that the major portion of the rules be scrapped

to permit a wider latitude for judgment plays with dependence on the umpire's fine discretion.

Whether so radical a move would not lead to deeper confusion—with arbiters in different games coming up with different rulings on identical plays—has given the authorities pause.

Plays in the line of the century-old *Clipper* teaser have been grist for the alert Official Rules Committee which functions under the aegis of the Baseball Commissioner. Each season brings to light situations from actual play which would make better sense were their source the aberrations of a demented umpire. The Rules Committee has been prompt to seal fissures in the baseball code as quickly as they appear.

Quizzes in the *Saturday Evening Post* have often thrown the spotlight on oversights and inequities in the rules. In one case, an entire problem and answer found its way into the official casebook notes, as the following instance.

Bear in mind that runners are entitled to two bases from the last base touched when an overthrow by an outfielder goes into stand or dugout. Here is Section 7.05g:

In certain circumstances it is impossible to award a runner two bases. Example: Runner on first. Batter hits fly to short right. Runner holds up between first and second and batter comes around first and pulls up behind him. Ball falls safely. Outfielder, in throwing to first, throws ball into stand.

APPROVED RULING: Since no runner, when the ball is dead, may advance beyond the base to which he is entitled, the runner originally on first base goes to third base and the batter is held on second.

Otherwise, of course, you would wind up with two runners on third base.

The *Post* postulate that no runner may advance beyond the base to which he is entitled serves as a theoretical yardstick for solutions to other problems. Most important of these is that of interference on a rundown play.

But that one is another nutcracker.

The answers to the quizzes contained in this book are based on the Official Playing Rules, major league regulations and other official interpretations.

HARRY SIMMONS

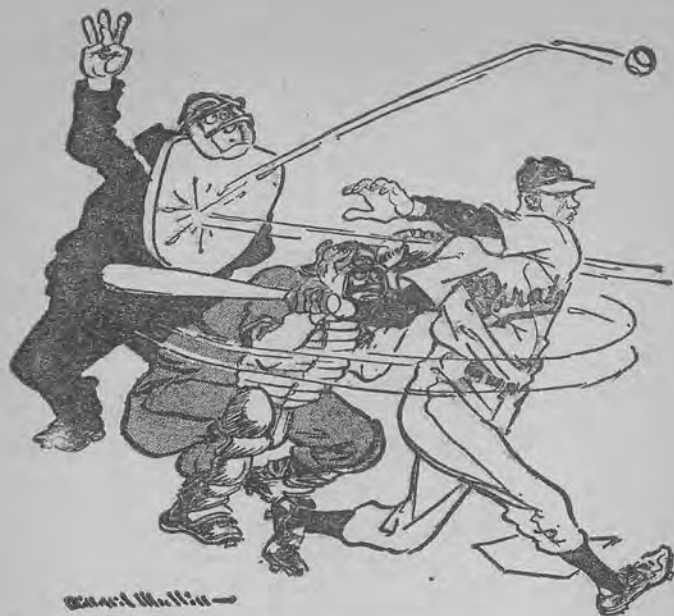
SO YOU
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BASEBALL!



1. When an umpire thumbs a player out of the game, it usually means a fine for the athlete. But umpires, too, occasionally incur fines from the league president. How does it happen? Let's take this hypothetical situation, based on an actual one elsewhere:

New York leads, 5 to 4, as the Cleveland Indians come to bat in the last of the ninth. Tito Francona goes out on a ground ball, but Rocky Colavito reaches first safely. Russ Nixon comes to bat, runs up a three-and-two count, then strikes out, swinging. The ball gets away from the New York catcher, however. Taking advantage of the error, Nixon goes to first and Colavito to second. Woody Held pops up for the second out. Then Jack Harshman, pinch-hitting for Gary Bell, blasts the ball out of the park for a home run, scoring Colavito and Nixon ahead of him. The Indians win, 7 to 5. Under those circumstances, the umpires working the game are fined. Why?

(See Page 14 for answer.)



2. Let's assume you're umpiring behind the plate, and this situation arises:

It's the ninth inning of a Cub-Pirate game in Pittsburgh, with the score tied. The Pirates come to bat. Stuart and Burgess are quickly out on ground balls, but Hoak singles. Mazeroski's humpbacked lob into right field falls safely, and Hoak moves to third. Virdon is purposely passed, loading the bases.

Rocky Nelson, batting for Pitcher Roy Face, runs up a two-and-two count. The next pitch is a fast ball. Nelson swings and misses, but the ball eludes the Cubs' catcher. It plunks hard against your umpire's chest protector and rebounds well out into the playing field. Pitcher Bob Anderson pounces on it and makes a leisurely throw to first base far ahead of Nelson for the third out.

Now you as umpire suddenly find yourself in the middle of a rhubarb. Had the ball not bounced from your chest, Nelson would have reached first base easily. The Pirates gather round you, clamoring for a base on your interference. What would you do?

(See Page 14 for answer.)



3. Section 1.01 of baseball's official code decrees that games must be played "on an enclosed field." Even that simple statement may mean trouble for the umpire, as in the following hypothetical case:

The Athletics trail the Yankees, 4-1, as they come to bat at the Stadium at the start of the ninth. Russ Snyder and Jerry Lumpe are quick outs, but the game takes new life when Dick Williams singles and Bob Cerv's one-bagger sends Williams to second.

Norm Sieburn slams the Yankee pitcher's next offering high and far into right field. The ball hugs the foul line, fair by inches, as Kent Hadley dashes to his left to catch it. It is still in fair territory when Hadley stabs up at it. His glove deflects the ball into foul territory, but it lands in the stands. If you were the umpire, how would you call the play?

(See Page 14 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 1-3

1. Nixon should not have been permitted to reach first base. With a runner on first and less than two out, the batter cannot run to first after three strikes—he is automatically out even though the catcher fails to hold the ball. (See Section 6.05c: “A batter is out when a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out.”) If Nixon had been declared out, as he should have been, Held’s pop fly would have made the third out. Therefore, had the umpires been alert, New York would have won, 5 to 4.

2. Unless the ball wedges in your mask or paraphernalia (or lands in your pocket!) it remains in play. The out counts, and the game goes on. (See Section 5.08: If a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is alive and in play.”)

3. It’s a two-base hit. Had the ball landed in fair territory, it would have been a home run. (Section 6.09i: “The batter becomes a runner when any fair fly ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over the fence into foul territory, in which case the batter shall be entitled to advance to second base; but if deflected into fair territory, the batter shall be entitled to a home run.”)



4. Timing is of the essence of baseball. The cut-off play, the under-hand flip, the pick-off—all demonstrate the importance of split-second action in our national sport. Yet it can be overdone. In the following hypothetical situation, a player's attempt to save time raises a question of legality.

Say the White Sox are host to the Red Sox in Comiskey Park. The visitors are ahead, 4-3, as they come up for their turn in the eighth. Don Buddin leads off with a single, but the next batter fans. Gary Geiger then hits a slow bouncer to the right of second and the baseman makes a neat pickup near the bag, where Shortstop Luis Aparicio is already waiting for the toss.

The baseman, realizing that he will not have time to complete a double play if he flips to Luis or touches the base himself, plunks the ball into Luis's outstretched glove without letting go of it. Then he whirls and throws to first base in time to beat Geiger to the bag for a double play. Or is it a double play? How would you call it?

(See Page 18 for answer.)



5. Sometimes the most spectacular plays in baseball work like a charm—or so it seems until the rulebook is consulted. Take the following hypothetical case:

The Yanks are on the short end of a four-to-one score as they go to bat in the fifth against the A's at Kansas City. Tony Kubek bangs a base hit into left. Mickey Mantle's single sends Tony to third. Yogi Berra is nicked by a pitched ball, and the sacks are loaded.

Cletis Boyer steps up to make the most of the opportunity, and works a two-and-two count. Then Boyer slashes a vicious drive straight back to the mound. The ball strikes the pitcher's rubber and, without touching him, rebounds over the home plate. Catcher Pete Daley leaps high above his box, spears the ball and steps on the plate to force out Kubek. The ball is relayed to third and first for a triple play.

It looks as though the Yanks' rally is suddenly snuffed out. But if you're the umpire, you had better let them continue. Why?

(See Page 18 for answer.)



6. The baseball umpire must not only know the rules by heart, he must also be able to read between the lines, at times, to reach the right decision. Take this hypothetical puzzler.

St. Louis leads San Francisco, 3 to 2, in the fifth at Candlestick Park, with the Giants at bat. The first batter up swings at a curve, but barely nicks the ball. It hits the ground and proceeds to trickle down the first-base line in foul territory. The batter breaks for first with Cardinal Catcher Hal Smith right behind him.

As they race, the ball begins to swerve toward fair ground. It is only an inch inside foul territory when the batter, sensing there will be plenty of time to get a fair ball to first base for the out, kicks the ball toward the stands.

The Cards claim the batter should be declared out for interference, but the Giants contend, "You can't call him out for interference on a foul ball." If you were the umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 18 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 4-6

4. No double play. Buddin is safe at second.

The ball must be securely held by the fielder. Section 2.00 (tag) of the rules says, in part, "A tag is the action of a fielder in touching a base with his body while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove. . . ."

5. Boyer's hit was a foul ball.

(You'll have to turn to the Case Book, or appendix to the official rules for the answer to this one. Section 2.00 (foul) there gives as the approved ruling in such cases: "Without touching a fielder, a batted ball hits pitcher's rubber and rebounds over catcher's head, or to foul territory between home and first, or between home and third base. This is a foul.")

6. Call the batter out. Section 6.05i of the rules says, in part, "A batter is out when, after hitting or bunting a foul ball, he INTENTIONALLY deflects the course of the ball in any manner while running to first base."



7. It's a rare ball game that doesn't offer some comedy relief. Almost every contest produces a caustic, leather-lunged fan, or customers risking a suit of clothes for a souvenir foul ball, or a bizarre twist to a play on the field.

The following play, set forth hypothetically here, actually occurred elsewhere and left the stands in hysterics.

The Cardinals and Reds are meeting in the first inning of a twin bill at the Crosley Field, Cincinnati. Grammas, St. Louis shortstop, lays a puny bunt down the first-base line to start the game. The Redleg catcher pounces on the ball and gives chase.

Grammas is getting away when the catcher dives at him from behind and accidentally stuffs the ball into his hip pocket. Grammas pulls ahead and the catcher loses his grip on the ball.

Realizing the significance of the unaccustomed lump on his flank, Grammas goes merrily around the bases while the Redlegs watch in consternation. Grammas carefully tags each base and crosses the plate with a home run. Or does he? How would you call it?

(See Page 22 for answer.)



8. Even a thing as slight as a foul tip may land a baseball umpire in hot water. If legally caught, the ball remains in play; if not, it counts as a foul ball. Because the foul tip isn't always covered by general baseball rules, it has been the subject of special legislation for special occasions. Take the following hypothetical play:

With the Dodgers and Cardinals in a crucial game at Los Angeles, Gene Oliver opens fire for the Cards with a loping single to right. Wally Shannon, next up, runs the count to three and two. Then he takes a lusty swipe at a fast ball and barely nicks it.

The ball strikes Catcher John Roseboro's glove, bounds off his chest protector and into his bare hand. Oliver is off for second base, but Roseboro's line throw beats him to the bag by a split second.

The field umpire waves Oliver out, but the Cards' manager shouts that the hit was a foul ball, not a foul tip, and that neither man is out. How would you rule?

(See Page 22 for answer.)



9. The double-play takeout rule poses some fancy problems. Take this hypothetical one, which has caused considerable speculation among rules experts:

Detroit sets out to break a three-three tie with Washington in the fourth at Briggs Stadium when Eddie Yost is walked and a line single by the next hitter advances Yost to third base. Harvey Kuenn, next up, slams out a grounder. Washington Shortstop Bill Consolo comes up with the ball and flips it to Ron Samford at second for a force play. The Tiger runner from first deliberately charges into Samford to break up a double play. Just before he and Samford go down in a tangle, Yost touches home plate.

As the base runner clearly went out of his way to clash with Samford, the base umpire rules interference and calls both the runner and batter out.

But what about Yost? If you were plate umpire, would you permit him to score or order him back to third base?

(See Page 22 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 7-9

7. No homer, this. The ball is out of play when controlled by the offensive team, as it is in this case. Play ceases at the moment of the innocent interference. Charge the Redleg catcher with an error and give no hit to Grammas. Put him on first base, however, because of the catcher's error.

8. Batter and runner are both out.

Until 1957 this kind of foul tip juggle was an illegal catch. The ball would go as a mere foul because it had touched catcher's equipment other than the glove.

Today it need only touch hand or glove first to be considered a legal catch. The ball remains in play.

(Section 2.00: "A FOUL TIP is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands. . . . It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand.")

9. Let Yost score.

(Section 2.00 INTERFERENCE (a): ". . . . If the umpire declares the batter or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference, unless otherwise provided by these rules.")

There is no provision which would permit the umpire to return Yost to third base.



10. If you have to blow off steam in baseball, don't throw things. Here is the hypothetical case of a player who did, causing quite a ruckus.

Say it's the White Sox and Tigers in the last half of the fifth in a close game at Briggs Stadium, Detroit. Harvey Kuenn opens with a screaming double down the right-field line. Al Kaline gets nicked by an inside pitch and takes his base. Charlie Maxwell then lifts an infield pop. As a Sox baseman runs toward it, the umpire calls, "In-field fly, if fair!"

The Sox baseman gets under the ball in fair territory, but it merely touches his glove, then bounces and rolls into foul ground. In disgust, the baseman flings his mitt at the ball, hitting it and stopping the roll.

Kaline and Kuenn halt at second and third, respectively, while Maxwell legs it to first base. But you, as umpire, can't let them stay there. What would you do?

(See Page 26 for answer.)



11. Let's say the Giants lead the Phils by a handy seven-to-one margin in the eighth inning of a game at San Francisco. After two Giants are retired, Orlando Cepeda slams a sizzling triple into left center field. The next Giant batter, the right fielder, sends a slow roller to Shortstop Ruben Amaro, whose throw beats him to first base by a step. But the Phil first baseman lets the ball slip from his grasp, and Cepeda scores.

The Giant batter fails to see the miscue, however, and continues running to the outfield, where he picks up his glove. As soon as he turns and sees what has happened, he drops the glove and jogs back to first base.

Meanwhile the Philly first baseman has picked up the ball, stepped on the base and appealed to the umpire to call the runner out. If you were the umpire, what would you do?

(See Page 26 for answer.)



12. Once in a blue moon in baseball, the umpire feels sadly like agreeing when the crowd yells, "Kill the ump!" Here's a hypothetical case of the kind.

It's the Yankees and the Athletics in a one-one squeaker at Kansas City, with the Yanks up in the seventh and two away. Cletis Boyer singles past third. On the next pitch, Boyer breaks away for a second. Just as Jerry Lumpe, covering second for the A's, moves in on the play, the base umpire somehow bumps into him. The ball scoots past Lumpe into center field, and Boyer swings on around to third.

On appeal, the base umpire rules himself guilty of interference, cancels the play and ships Boyer back to first base. But the Yankees instantly protest to the plate umpire. If you were behind the plate, how would you call it?

(See Page 26 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 10-12

10. Call Maxwell out, and send Kuenn and Kaline around to score.

Two rules, in quick succession, govern this play:

Maxwell is automatically out when the umpire calls an infield fly and the ball is touched in fair territory. (See Section 6.05e: "A batter is out when an Infield-Fly is declared.")

When the baseman's thrown mitt touched the batted ball, it entitled both Kuenn and Kaline to three bases. (See Section 7.05c: "Each runner, including the batter-runner, may, without liability of being put out, advance three bases, if a fielder deliberately throws his glove at and touches a fair ball.") The rule continues, "The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home base at his peril," but this must be disregarded in the case of an Infield Fly.

11. The runner is out, although Cepeda's score counts because it was made before the out.

(See Section 7.10c: "Any runner shall be called out, on appeal, when he overruns or overslides first base and fails to return to the base immediately, and he or the base is tagged.")

12. You'd better get the base umpire to change his decision. Boyer is entitled to third base, as the ball was still alive after the collision with Lumpe.

The ball is dead on umpire's interference only when the ump hinders the catcher from throwing to a base in an effort to head off a base-stealing runner (Section 5.09b) or when a batted ball hits an umpire before a fielder has had a chance to make a play on the ball (Section 5.09g).



13. Protested games are among the saddest events of a league president's life. They usually happen only when an umpire makes a mistaken ruling or an ineligible player is used. Here is a hypothetical situation in which even a veteran umpire might go astray if he doesn't watch out.

Let's say it's the Cubs and Reds in the seventh inning of a tight battle at Wrigley Field, Chicago. The Cubs come to bat trailing, 3 to 1. After one is retired, Ernie Banks scratches an infield hit. Walt Moryn is walked, moving Banks to second.

Dale Long then sends a hopper toward Shortstop Roy McMillan, but Moryn edges into second just ahead of McMillan's throw. In an effort to nab Long, the Red second baseman gets off a tremendous heave to first. A good throw would have caught Long, but the ball goes wild and lands in the dugout. Banks scores. But how would you, as umpire, place Moryn and Long in order to avoid a protest game?

(See Page 30 for answer.)



14. Sometimes the umpire makes a perfectly correct decision, yet can't back it up from the rulebook. Assume it's the Cardinals and Cubs in a tight battle. The Cards are at bat, with Daryl Spencer on second and Joe Cunningham on first.

The first pitch to Ken Boyer is a pitchout, and Catcher Sam Taylor throws to Shortstop Ernie Banks. Spencer is caught off the bag. In the ensuing rundown, the ball goes to Third Baseman Earl Averill, who begins to chase Spencer back to second. Cunningham meanwhile advances to second. Averill throws the ball back to Banks, who tags Cunningham while he is standing on second, then throws back to third base. But the ball is bobbled. Spencer succeeds in getting back to second and Cunningham darts back to first. The Cubs, however, protest that Cunningham is out, as he was tagged on a base to which he had no right.

(See Page 30 for answer.)



15. Once in a great while a manager, after handing his line-up card to the umpire, will decide to make a substitution in the line-up before play begins. Except for pitchers, this is permitted. Where a substitution is made without proper notice to the umpire, however, it can become an expensive proposition. For instance:

Bill Consolo is listed as lead-off man in a game between Washington and Baltimore at Baltimore Stadium. At the last minute, however, the Senators' manager decides he should use John Schaive. The rookie gets up to bat before the umpire is notified of the change and promptly slashes a line double into center field.

The Oriole manager comes out of his dugout at a run, claiming that Schaive is an improper batter inasmuch as his name does not appear in the line-up. The Orioles contend that the proper batter should be declared out and Schaive taken off base. How would you rule?

(See Page 30 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 13-15

13. Moryn scores, too, but hold Long at second base.

On this play each runner is entitled to advance two bases beyond the base he held when the wild throw was made. This advances Moryn to the home plate, but Long only to second, as he had not reached first at the time of the throw.

(See Section 7.05g . . . "Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability of being put out, advance two bases when . . . a thrown ball goes into . . . a players' bench. . . . The ball is dead. When such thrown ball is the first throw by an infielder the umpire . . . shall be governed by the position of the runner, or runners, at the time the ball was pitched; but if a play intervenes between the first throw by an infielder and the throw into the [dugout], the umpire, in awarding such bases, shall be governed by the position of the runner, or runners, [when the last throw was made].")

14. Cunningham is entitled to remain on first base, although you won't find a current rule that says so. The nearest applicable 1960 rule (Section 7.03) is that when two runners are touching one base, the second runner is out when tagged.

The 1949 rule that covered the play exactly (Section 3, Rule 45) was inadvertently omitted when the rules were re-codified in 1950. This read in part, "In case a runner is being run down between bases, and the following runner occupies the same base the first runner has left, the second man cannot be put out while holding said base."

15. Let Schaive remain on second base, and the game continues with no one out. Failure to inform the umpire of the substitution is going to cost the Senators' manager twenty-five dollars (Section 3.06), but an unannounced substitution is not otherwise punishable. (See Section 3.08a2, "If, through oversight, no announcement of a substitution is made, the substitute shall be considered as having entered the game when . . . if a batter, he takes his place in the batter's box.")



16. The tricky situation described below has confused both fans and players repeatedly. Let's see if you know the answer.

Say it's the top of the eighth at Los Angeles, with the Braves leading the Dodgers 6 to 1. Bobby Avila opens with a spanking single to left. The Braves' pitcher then lifts a pop-up to Charley Neal at second base, tosses his bat down in disgust and jogs toward first.

Neal gets under the pop. Noticing the Brave pitcher's lazy pace, he traps the ball cleverly and throws to Gil Hodges at first base. Hodges tags Avila, who is still standing on first, then touches the bag just before the Milwaukee pitcher sprints up to it.

The Dodgers claim a double play, but the Braves maintain that in this situation a runner cannot be put out while standing on the base. How would you call it?

(See Page 34 for answer.)



17. Nothing in baseball taxes the umpire's wits and tries the patience of diamond diplomats more than infield-fly situations, occurring with runners on first and second or with bases full, and less than two out. Here, in a simulated big-league setting, is an infield-fly problem that is primed with trouble for someone.

Let's say the Milwaukee Braves, trailing the Giants 1-0, are at bat in the fifth inning at Candlestick Park. With no one out, successive singles by Ed Mathews, Hank Aaron and Frank Torre load the bases for Milwaukee.

Lee Maye then lifts a twisting infield fly and the umpire calls it accordingly. While the runners hold their bases, a Giant infielder makes an eager lunge for the swirling pop-up and somehow misses. The ball hits the off leg of Aaron, whose other foot is planted on second base, and bounds into the outfield. Before it is retrieved, all runners advance one base and Mathews crosses the plate with the tying run.

But the Giant manager rushes out to make the point that Aaron was hit by a batted ball. If you were umpiring, what would you do about it?

(See Page 34 for answer.)



18. Occasionally an umpire, being only superhuman, makes a mistake. But can two umpires go wrong?

Let's say the Milwaukee Braves are leading Cincinnati, 5-3, at the start of the seventh. Billy Martin, first man to bat for the Reds, slams a double off the right-field wall, but in his haste does not touch first base.

As Martin pulls up at second, the second-base umpire calls for the ball and examines it as he is required to do whenever it hits the fence. At that point, the Braves' first baseman shouts for the ball, and the ump tosses it to him. The baseman steps on first and appeals to the first-base umpire to declare Martin out. That man in blue, having noticed Martin's omission, obliges.

Though no protest was forthcoming in the actual game at this point, a Red complaint was possible. How would you rule on a Red protest?

(See Page 34 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 16-18

16. It's a double play, all right. Because a force play was created when Neal trapped the ball, Avila is no longer entitled to first base and is liable to be put out.

The procedure must be exact, however. Had Hodges touched the base before tagging Avila, the force would have been removed and Avila would not be out. (See Section 2.00: "A force play is a play in which a runner legally loses his right to occupy a base by reason of the batter becoming a base runner.")

17. Send the runners back to their original bases. The ball became dead when it hit Aaron. In most cases where a runner is hit by a batted ball not touched by a fielder, he is out. An exception is made, however, when a runner is hit by an infield-fly ball while standing on his base. Had Aaron been hit while off base, he would have been out. In either case, the ball is dead and base runners cannot advance.

The governing rule, rewritten in 1957, no longer covers this play adequately. The 1956 rule was precise: "If a runner is hit by the ball while standing on base, he shall not be called out, but the ball is dead and the batter shall be called out; but if a base runner is hit while off base, both he and the batter shall be called out and the ball is dead.")

18. Under the circumstances, the ball was dead and Martin could not be put out. (Section 5.10d, "The ball is dead . . . when the umpire wishes to examine the ball.")

For Martin to be put out legally, play would have to be formally resumed by having the ball go to the pitcher, who then steps onto the rubber while the plate umpire calls "Play" (Section 5.11). At that point, the first baseman may properly ask for the ball and appeal for Martin to be declared out.



Billard Muller

19. How would you handle the rules' double talk in the following hypothetical case?

Say New York leads Cleveland, 1-0, in the last of the fourth in Yankee Stadium. Roger Maris opens with a line single. As Tony Kubek comes to bat, the hit-and-run signal is flashed. Maris breaks for second on the pitch. The Cleveland catcher, anxious to get the ball, accidentally tips Kubek's bat. But Kubek nevertheless manages to send a weak dribbler back toward the mound.

With no play at second, the Cleveland pitcher throws to first, but the ball skims high over Tito Francona's head and into right field. Maris continues past second and third, and tries to score. But he is thrown out at the plate on a long peg from Right Fielder Rocky Colavito. Kubek pulls up at second.

The Yankee manager thereupon charges up and objects that the ball was dead the moment that the catcher tipped Kubek's bat. He quotes Rule 2.00, "On any interference the ball is dead," and argues that Maris should be put back on second and Kubek sent back to first.

You, as plate umpire, acknowledge the bat tipping. How, then, would you rule?

(See Page 38 for answer.)



20. How far can a baseball player go toward turning the game into football? Here in a simulated major-league setting is a situation introducing the quick kick to the diamond.

Say the Boston Red Sox lead, 4 to 3, as the Baltimore Orioles come to bat at Fenway Park in the top of the eighth. Billy Klaus reaches third on a double by the next man up. Gus Triandos is walked. That loads the bases, and the signal for a squeeze is flashed.

Hoyt Wilhelm lays down a bunt that trickles into foul ground just over the third-base line. As Klaus steams down the line for home, the ball begins to curve back toward fair territory. Klaus, knowing that he will be out if the ball rolls fair, unceremoniously boots it back toward the visitors' bench.

The Sox storm out of the dugout, charging interference. But—interference on a foul ball? How would you rule? (See Page 38 for answer.)



21. The umpire is one man who can do something about the weather. Take this hypothetical case:

Cleveland has the Yankees, 6 to 1, in the last of the fifth. A moderate rain began at the start of the inning. Five innings is the minimum for a legal game.

The first New Yorker at bat runs up a three-two count before hitting a triple. The next two batters go down on infield pops. As the rain increases, the Yankee bench, hoping to see the game called, chants, "Time! Time!"

The next Yankee up strolls to the plate and takes a count of three balls, one strike. The umpire calls the next throw a strike, but the batter, who had made a break for first, goes back of the plate and argues the call. When he refuses to return to the batter's box, the umpire signals the pitcher to go ahead anyhow. The pitcher winds up and lets go, but the wet horsehide slips from his hand and sails far over the catcher's head. McDougald scores from third and the batter runs to first. A deluge now makes further play impossible. Was the batter out, completing five innings and making a legal game? Or was he safe, in which case the game was called on account of rain?

Answers to Problems 19-21

19. Let the play stand.

You would call interference only if Kubek had been out at first or if a force was made on Maris at second. As neither was put out as a result of the tipped bat, you apply Rule 6.08 (c) which provides that when a batter, after interference by the catcher, reaches first on a fair hit, an error or otherwise, "the play proceeds without reference to the interference."

20. This is interference. Klaus is out. When this play first appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, there was no rule by which the runner could be called out.

Section 7.09c was subsequently added to the code. This reads: "It is interference by a batter or a runner when he intentionally deflects the course of a foul ball in any manner."

21. The batter was out on strikes, and the game counts as a 6-to-1 win for Cleveland. By failing to return to the box, the batter forfeited his right to go to first on what ordinarily would have been a fourth ball, and the pitch became a called strike. See Section 6.02c, which says in part:

"If the batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box. . . . the umpire shall order the pitcher to pitch, and shall call "Strike" on each such pitch. . . . If he does not take his proper position before three strikes are called, he shall be declared out."



22. In revising the baseball code some years ago, the experts inadvertently omitted several major rules. The practice since then has been to regard these as still in force. Here, in a hypothetical setting, is what happens when an unusual stratagem meets an "invisible" rule.

Say the Braves have the Giants, 5 to 1, at the start of the seventh inning. The Giants score three runs in quick order. With two out, the tying run is on second.

Warren Spahn, working in relief, works so slowly that with the count one-and-one, the batter steps out of the box for a moment. The umpire signals "Time."

The Giant runner, who has a long lead from second, moves only a little closer to the base. Spahn notes this. So when "Play" is called, he toes the rubber and then steps back and makes a long throw toward second. But the ball carries into center field and the Giant runner races around third and scores easily.

At this point, Spahn calmly calls for the ball, steps on second base and appeals to the umpire to call the runner out for failing to retouch the base after a call of "Time."

If you were the umpire, what would you do?

(See Page 42 for answer.)



23. Is the catcher an infielder? A lot may depend on the answer. Here, in a simulated big-league setting, is a major problem over the catcher's status.

Let's say Los Angeles and Cincinnati are tied, 1-1, as the Reds come to bat in the top of the fourth at Los Angeles. With one away, Ed Bailey laces a double along the left-field line. He goes to third as Orlando Pena grounds out.

Roy McMillan then lifts a dinky pop-up in front of the plate. Dodger catcher Joe Pignatano lunges for the ball, but it twists down between his outstretched hands, untouched.

Now the ball takes a freak backward hop toward the third-base foul line. While still in fair territory, it hits Bailey on the seat of the pants as he sprints home.

That puts it squarely up to you as the umpire. Is catcher Pignatano "an infielder?" If so, Bailey is saved by Section 7.08f of the Playing Rules, which says a base runner is out when hit by a batted ball *only* if the ball strikes him "before it has touched or passed an infielder." But if the catcher is not an infielder, Bailey is plainly out. How would you call it?

(See Page 42 for answer.)



24. The difference between right and wrong in baseball is sometimes a fine, hairline distinction. Take this hypothetical situation in a major-league setting:

Say Cincinnati had San Francisco, 1-0, as the Giants come to bat in the fifth at Crosley Field. Eddie Bressoud lashes a single to left, advances to second on Willie Kirkland's sacrifice, and moves to third when Willie Mays taps one to the Reds' second baseman. Hobie Landrith is purposely passed.

Manager Rigney now orders a steal home. As the Reds' pitcher goes into his stretch, Bressoud breaks for the plate. The pitcher promptly backs completely off the rubber, so as to avoid any question of a balk, and throws the ball home.

It is apparent that Bressoud will be out, but the batter, sizing up the situation fast, slashes at the ball and drives a single into right field.

Immediately the Reds claim the batter interfered with the play at the plate, while the Giants argue that he had every right to hit at the pitcher's delivery.

If you were the umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 42 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 22-24

22. The umpire should call the runner out. In the absence of a current rule, he may invoke the old one (Rule 49, Section 14) which was unintentionally omitted from the code. It provides that where a baserunner "fails to return to and touch the base he occupied when 'Time' was called" and tags the next base under the circumstances outlined, "the baserunner is out. . . ."

23. Although there is something to be said for the claim that the catcher is an infielder, major-league umpires are instructed to call the base runner out on a play like this one.

24. The batter is out for interference.

Under the circumstances, the man on the mound is not a pitcher, but an infielder. (See Section 8.01e: "If the pitcher removes his pivot foot from contact with the pitcher's plate by stepping backward with that foot, he thereby becomes an infielder. . . .")

Had there been fewer than two out, Bressoud, not the batter, would have been declared out for the latter's interference under Section 7.08g: "Any base runner is out when he attempts to score on a play in which the batter interferes with the play at home base with less than two out. . . ."



25. The hidden-ball trick isn't the only debatable play which may befuddle a ball game. Take this one:

Say the Pittsburgh Pirates lead the Los Angeles Dodgers, 5-3, as the Dodgers come to bat in the sixth.

John Roseboro opens with a single and moves to second on an infield out. After Hodges draws a walk, Roseboro goes to third. Hodges reaches second when Carl Furillo grounds out to the Pirate first baseman for the second out.

Here Manager Alston sends in a pinch hitter, but gets no results. With two strikes on him, the hitter swings and misses a third. He heads glumly back to the bench, failing to notice that the Pirate catcher has dropped the ball. The catcher, seeing the batter returning to his dugout, picks up the ball and rolls it gently to the mound.

But the Dodger bench roars to the batter to run to first. He does, without a play being made on him, while Roseboro and Hodges cross the plate to tie the score. The Pirates thereupon rise up and claim the batter is out for leaving the base path and not running straight to first.

If you were the umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 46 for answer.)



26. The umpire is officially cautioned by the rule book (Section 9.00 of case book) to "keep your eye everlastingly on the ball"! An ump who ignores this advice finds himself alone in the world. Take this hypothetical case, based on an actual big-league incident of a few years ago:

Say the St. Louis Cards have the Dodgers, 2-0, as the Cards come to bat in the ninth at Los Angeles. The first two batters are easy outs, but Stan Musial lifts the ball high in a tremendous blast to far left field. The third-base umpire watches it soar toward the stands, then turns and waves the home-run signal. Stan slows his triumphal course to a leisurely jog.

But instead of going into the stands, the ball strikes the top of the fence and bounds back into play. A Dodger outfielder pounces on it and relays it to the catcher in time for a putout on Musial.

Hara-kiri aside, what would you do now if you were the umpire?

(See Page 46 for answer.)



27. Baseball's rules do not cover every conceivable situation. Here is one of those times.

Say the Cubs and Phils are in a 5-5 seesaw at Wrigley Field, Chicago. Two Phils are already out in the eighth when Dave Philley slams a double to left field. Dave goes to third on Harry Anderson's infield hit. The next Philly batter takes two called strikes before swinging at the third pitch, a bad one which breaks and bounces on the ground in front of the plate. The Phil misses completely, the umpire calls a strike, and the Cub catcher snags the ball on the first bounce and rolls it back to the mound.

The Cubs assume it is third out, and move up to bat. But the Phils' first-base coach beckons the batter to the bag. Philley crosses home plate and Anderson goes to third. The Phils insist there was no third out, because the ball hit the dirt and the batter was never tagged or thrown out.

If you were the umpire, would you rule that the strike was "legally caught"?

(See Page 46 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 25-27

25. The batter is not out, and the runs count.

When two are out, if the ball is not held by the catcher after a third strike, the batter must be tagged or thrown out at first base. (Sections 6.05j and 6.09b.) A runner may not be called out for leaving the base paths unless he does so to avoid being tagged. (Section 7.08a.)

26. Stick to the home-run decision.

In the actual game, the umpires ruled the runner out. The Dodgers in that game then scored three runs in the ninth to win, 3-2, and the Cardinals filed a protest. The league president upheld them and declared the batter entitled to a home run. The game was therefore judged a 3-3 tie and was entirely replayed.

27. This was not a legal catch, so you allow Philley to score, keep Anderson on third and let the batter take first base. The Playing Rules committee has held that it is impossible for the catcher to make a legal catch of a missed strike which hits the ground either before or after passing the batter.



28. Sometimes not even the umpire can say for sure who won a game—it takes the league president to make it final. Here in a simulated setting is one of those times.

Say Boston and Cleveland are in a hot battle with the visiting Red Sox ahead, 3 to 2, as the Indians come to bat in the ninth. Two are quickly retired, but then Vic Power smashes a triple.

Johnny Temple, next up, lets a couple by and then laces a bullet drive down the third-base line. The sudden hit strikes Power, who is standing on third, and caroms into short center. Power scores and Temple reaches second.

The Red Sox promptly claim that Power, struck by a batted ball, must be declared out, the Indians retired and the Sox returned the winning club. But the umpire refuses to agree that Power is out, as he was on base when the ball hit him. When the Sox manager maintains that the game is over and leads his men to the clubhouse, the umpire forfeits the game to Cleveland.

Actually, the umpire pulled a boner. The Red Sox are correct in saying that Power is out when hit by a batted ball, whether standing on a base or not.

If you were the league president, would you uphold the Red Sox who won the game on the field, or the umpire?

(See Page 50 for answer.)



29. Strangely enough, a baseball player can make a "boot" with his head. Here, in a hypothetical big-league setting, is how it happened in another league last season: Say the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians are in the fifth inning of a scoreless battle. The first Cleveland batter, Rocky Colavito, slams a drive to right center.

The Detroit outfielder races toward the fence. Just then the ball hits the top of the fence and rebounds so suddenly that the outfielder loses track of it—but only for a second. For it bounces off his forehead and into the stands.

The umpire waves a home run, but the Tigers roar their displeasure. They claim the hit wasn't a home run, as it failed to clear the fence "clean." The umpire, however, points out that a ball which bounces off a fielder's glove into the stands is a home run, and holds that the same thing applies here. If you were the umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 50 for answer.)



30. A fly catch is not always a simple play. Here is one, based on an actual occurrence, which thoroughly confused the umpires.

Say the White Sox trail the Cleveland Indians, 2-0, as they come to bat in the top of the third inning. Nelly Fox rams a double down the left-field line. Sam Esposito takes a base on balls. With runners on first and second, Sherm Lollar lifts a long fly to left field.

The Indian outfielder makes the catch but collides with the fence and crumples to the ground, dropping the ball. The third-base umpire rules a fly catch. The plate ump, at the Indian catcher's request, calls "time."

Before the outfielder can recover and throw the ball, Fox scores and Esposito advances to third. But the plate umpire, having called "time," sends them back to their original bases.

After a violent argument, the White Sox continue the game under protest. The Indians eventually win, 6-3. So the Sox carry their complaint to the league president. If you were league president, how would you rule?

(See Page 50 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 28–30

28. The forfeit stands.

Had the Red Sox resumed play when ordered, their protest would have been upheld and they would have been awarded the game. But when an umpire's order is flouted, regardless of circumstances, the forfeit must be supported.

29. No homer here. When the ball rebounded from the fence, it became a bounding ball under Section 6.09h of the rules, which allows only two bases for such. To be a home run, the ball must clear the fence without "regressive motion." In the actual game, the run was allowed to count, but this was a mistake.

30. The White Sox have a perfectly valid claim. What the umpires did represented confusion worse confounded.

First, the fielder's catch was not a completed legal one. ("It is not a catch . . . if . . . he collide . . . with a wall . . . and . . . drops the ball.") (Section 2.00 CATCH.) But the ump mistakenly called it as if it were.

Second, "time" may not be called while the ball is in play, and it was still in play notwithstanding the outfielder's mishap. ("No umpire shall call 'time' because of an accident to a player or umpire during a play until no further action is possible in that play.") (Section 5.10b.) So the plate umpire pulled a boner in calling "time."



31. No matter how weird a play may be, the umpire must stand ready to call it right instantly. Here in a simulated major-league setting is one that actually occurred in a minor-league game.

Say the Cards, trailing Los Angeles 3-2, are at bat in the top of the eighth. Wally Shannon draws a base on balls, goes to second on a passed ball, and moves on to third when Curt Flood grounds to Jim Gilliam.

The Cards decide to attempt a squeeze play next. Shannon breaks for home at full speed on the pitcher's motion. The Los Angeles Dodger first baseman, sharply alert, also races toward the plate. The pitcher meanwhile delivers a slow ball which fairly floats toward the batter.

The first baseman, seeing that the ball will not reach the catcher in time for a putout, charges into the pitching lane, grabs the pitched ball, and tags Shannon before he slides into the plate.

The Cards scream out in wrath and anguish, but is there a rule to cover the situation? If you were the umpire, how would you handle this one?

(See Page 54 for answer.)



32. Can the team on the field second-guess on an important play and get away with it? Here is such a situation:

Assume that the San Francisco Giants hold a 4-2 lead on the Milwaukee Braves as the Braves come to bat in the last of the ninth inning. Successive singles by Bill Bruton and Johnny Logan and a walk to the next batter load the bases. The Giant pitcher fans the next two batters.

Ed Mathews, next up, sends a line drive to left center. Bruton and Logan score easily but the Brave on first fails to touch second and third before crossing the plate.

The Giant third baseman calls for the ball and appeals to the umpire, who declares the Brave out at third. The quicker-thinking Giants are not happy at this. The Giant second baseman signals for the ball, holds it at second, and makes an appeal. His reason is soon clear.

If the Brave is out at third, the game continues in a 4-4 tie. But if he is declared out at second, a force play has been consummated, none of the runs counts, and the Giants win, 4-2. Yet the second baseman's appeal appears to be too late. How would you rule?

(See Page 54 for answer.)



33. Sometimes the pitcher gets the benefit of special rules applying only to him—and sometimes he doesn't. It is up to the umpire to decide, as in the following hypothetical game.

Assume Jim Bunning, of the Tigers, and Hector Brown, of the Orioles, are in a tight, scoreless pitching duel. With two away in the top of the eighth, Bunning nicks Al Pilarcik with a pitched ball and the Baltimore outfielder takes first base.

Expecting Pilarcik to try to steal second, Bunning throws a pitch-out, but Pilarcik stands fast. Bunning then throws to first twice, but Pilarcik leaps back safely each time.

On the third attempt from the rubber, Bunning's quick toss caroms off the first baseman's mitt and drops into the visitors' dugout. Pilarcik runs to second, and the umpire holds him there.

The Browns promptly claim Pilarcik is entitled to two bases.

If you were the umpire, would you send Pilarcik to third base?

(See Page 54 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 31-33

31. The run counts, and the Dodgers draw a double penalty. The first baseman committed what, for want of a more official label, might be called a "Fielder's Balk."

The rules at first did not cover such act on the part of anyone but the catcher. This was changed after this quiz appeared in the *Post*. When such interference occurs, Section 7.07 provides that the batter go to first base, the runner score, the fielder be charged with an error and the pitcher with a balk, though no one has yet been found who can explain why the pitcher should be so penalized. This is the only double penalty against the defensive team in the rule book.

32. The Giants win, 4-2.

Actually, the play points up a contradiction in successive parts of Section 7.10 note. The first part permits a superseding out *only* if the appeal is made on *another* runner than the one involved in the third out. Later, however, it is demonstrated that an out may be called on the *same* runner under a superseding appeal, and the Playing Rules Committee so holds.

33. Hold Pilarcik on second.

The umpire, guided by the maxim "one from the rubber, two from the field," is right.

When the pitcher steps off the rubber to throw to any base, and the ball goes into the stands or dugout, the runner is entitled to two bases. (Section 8.01e). But if the pitcher makes his throw to first base while on the pitcher's plate or rubber, only one base is allowed. (Section 7.05h.)



34. Just as the pitcher must give the batter a chance to get set, so must the batter avoid illegally confusing the pitcher. Here is a hypothetical major-league game in which the outcome may depend on a ruling on the batter's antics.

Say the Orioles are at bat in the last of the eighth, trailing the Senators, 4-3. Bob Boyd raps out a two-base hit. Boyd moves to third when Gus Triandos grounds out.

The next Oriole batter, a switch-hitter batting right-handed, misses the squeeze-play signal. As pitcher Russ Kemmerer, of the Senators, goes into his windup and Boyd breaks for the plate, the batter suddenly steps from the right to the left side of the plate.

Kemmerer throws to catcher Clint Courtney in time for Boyd to be put out at the plate. But now two questions arise for the umpire to settle. Is the batter out for changing from one side of the plate to the other? And if so, does the out on Boyd stand? How would you call it?

(See Page 58 for answer.)



35. Fans aren't the only ones who are confused by the infield-fly rule. Here's a case, in a simulated setting but based on an actual occurrence, which confused the umpire too.

Boston comes to bat in the top of the sixth inning at Shibe Park trailing Kansas City, 3-1. Pumpsie Green goes to first on a humpback liner into center field, and Gary Geiger is nicked by a pitched ball, giving the Red Sox men on first and second with none out.

Pete Runnels now raises a wind-tossed pop fly high between third base and home. The umpire shouts, as he must, "Infield fly, if fair!" The runners hold.

Harry Chiti, A's catcher, moves under the ball, but it falls past his outstretched mitt onto foul ground. Suddenly a freak hop sends it bounding back into fair territory between third and the plate. Chiti pounces on the ball, throws to third base for a force play, and the ball is relayed to second for another force. Runnels reaches first safely. Green and Geiger still haven't budged from their bases.

The Red Sox manager now claims that the ball was an infield fly, and that only Runnels is out. But the A's argue that the ball, having bounced in foul territory, would have been foul if caught.

If you were the umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 58 for answer.)



36. What happens when the players, as well as you folks in the stands, are confused by a scoreboard which shows a wrong ball-strike count? Let's see.

Say the Pirates and the Phils are tied, 2-2, in the fifth inning. With one out, Pittsburghers Dick Stuart and Roberto Clemente are on second and third, respectively. The Pittsburgh batter runs up a count of two balls and one strike, but the scoreboard shows two strikes and one ball.

On the next pitch, the batter swings and misses. The Phils catcher drops the ball to the ground, however, and the batter, thinking it is a fumbled third strike, darts for first base.

The catcher, confused, throws to first, but his throw is wild and the ball sails into right field. Clemente and Stuart score. The batter stays on first base.

Actually, the batter has no business on first, and should not have run and drawn a throw as—except on the misleading scoreboard—it was the second strike and not the third. How would you untangle this situation?

(See Page 58 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 34-36

34. Under Section 6.06b, "A batter is out for illegal action when he steps from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch."

Oddly enough, that kills the ball and the play on Boyd does not count. Boyd returns to third base.

35. It is an infield fly. Runnels is out but Green and Geiger are entitled to keep their bases. (Section 2.00 Infield Fly. Note: "If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.")

36. The runs count, but the batter must return to bat with the count properly two-and-two. There is no rule to penalize him. The catcher bears the blame for throwing away a live ball when he should have known better.



37. A recent rule change was aimed at curbing baseball's prize nuisance, the souvenir-hunting fan who snatches a ball that is in play. Let's see how it works:

Say the Yankees lead the Red Sox, 3-2, in the eighth at Fenway Park. Gary Geiger opens the inning for the Sox with a one-base hit. He breaks for second as Pete Runnels lifts a long fly to deep right center field.

The Yankee outfielder makes a sparkling one-handed catch and throws hard to first base in an attempt at a double play. Geiger, already past second, steams back and slides headlong into first to beat a relay.

The ball bounds away from the Yankee first baseman toward the fence where Yogi Berra, Yankee catcher, is covering the play. Just as Berra reaches the ball, a fan leaning from the stands pulls the ball away from Berra and stuffs it into his own pocket. Geiger has only now risen to his feet.

If you were umpiring, what would you do?
(See Page 62 for answer.)



38. Few plays in baseball can throw up more of a smoke screen of confusion than a simple little pop fly. Take this hypothetical case:

Say the Giants and Pirates are tied, 1-1, in the eighth at Forbes Field. Hobie Landrith, the first Giant batter, laces a single into right field. Al Worthington, batting next, is given a bunt signal.

Worthington misses two attempts. The bunt signal remains on. Worthington's next effort, as Landrith breaks for second, is a foul pop fly to the right of the plate.

The Pirate catcher takes the ball on the fly and fires it to Dick Stuart at first base before Landrith can return to the base. It's a double play—or is it?

The Giants charge out of the dugout claiming that the only out is on Worthington for bunting foul on a third strike. They argue that the ball is then dead, and Landrith may return to first without jeopardy.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 62 for answer.)



39. Unhappy is the umpire who must call a play which appears to be governed by two contradictory rules. Which is he to heed? Take this hypothetical case:

Say Cleveland leads Chicago, 3-2, in the fourth at Comiskey Park. With one out on the White Sox, Nelly Fox lashes a single to right field. Jim Rivera then sends a long drive into deep right center. Fox quickly rounds second and heads for third, only to find a frantic coach waving him back as Bubba Phillips makes a circus catch.

Before Fox can get back to first base, a bad peg sends the ball sailing over the head of the Cleveland first baseman and into the stand.

As the rules allow the runner two bases on such a bobble, Fox looks to the umpire, gets a nod from him and ambles over to third.

The instant a new ball is put into play, the Cleveland pitcher toes the rubber and throws to first base, then appeals to the umpire to declare Fox out for failure to retouch first. If you were the umpire, having signaled Fox to take third base, what would you do now?

(See Page 62 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 37-39

37. Hold Geiger at first base.

Under the old rule, which allowed a runner two bases for spectator interference with a thrown ball, the umpire would have had to send Geiger to third base.

The new rule, however, leaves it up to the umpire to judge whether the runner could have advanced. In this case, he obviously could not.

Section 3.16, the governing rule, reads: "Where there is spectator interference with any thrown ball . . . the ball shall be dead at the moment of interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference."

38. It's a double play, all right.

The batter is out for bunting foul on the third strike (Section 6.05d), but the ball is never dead when caught on a fly, fair or foul. See Section 7.08d, which says simply: "Any base runner is out when he fails to re-touch his base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught before he, or his base, is tagged by a fielder."

39. Call Fox out.

The fact that he was entitled to advance two bases under Section 7.05g does not permit him to advance illegally. He should have retouched first, and it was not up to the umpire to advise him to do so. Under the circumstances, Section 7.02 applies: "Penalty. If a runner fails to touch a base while advancing or reversing, he shall be declared out when a fielder tags him, the missed base or the base from which he started his advance. This is an appeal play."



40. Two baseballs in play at the same time? Perfectly possible, as in this hypothetical case:

Say the Orioles trail the Indians, 7-5, as they come to bat in the top half of the sixth. With one out, Al Pilarcik draws a base on balls. Gene Woodling, next up, passes up a high outside pitch. The ball sails past the Cleveland catcher into the backstop. The catcher reaches back and the umpire automatically plants a new ball in his hand.

Pilarcik meanwhile rounds second and, seeing the original ball at the foot of the screen, heads for third. The catcher throws the new ball to third, then runs to pick up the other. Pilarcik races home, beating the catcher.

The Indians argue that Pilarcik should be sent back to second because only the umpire's handing out of a new ball permitted him to score. How would you rule?

(See Page 66 for answer.)



41. Can a catcher make a double play without touching the ball? Here in a simulated major-league setting, is such a play, based upon one in a game this season.

Say the Pittsburgh Pirates come to bat in the last of the eighth trailing the Chicago Cubs, 2-1. With one out, Smoky Burgess drives a double down the left-field line. When Don Hoak hits a triple into right-center field, Burgess scores the tying run.

The next batter up gets the squeeze signal. However, his attempted bunt is a puny pop-up a few feet in front of the plate. The batter makes no effort to run, but holds his bat in such a position that catcher Sam Taylor cannot field the ball. The umpire waves the batter out for interference.

Just then Hoak, coming from third base, crashes into the mixup at the plate. Up goes the umpire's arm, and he calls Hoak out along with the batter. But the Pirate manager storms at the umpire's decision. Why?

(See Page 66 for answer.)



42. Can a runner be put out twice on the same batted ball? Consider this situation:

Say Cincinnati and Milwaukee are tied, 2-2, with Milwaukee at bat and one out. Singles by Bill Bruton and Johnny Logan and a pass to Hank Aaron fill the bases.

Next, Ed Mathews grounds sharply, Roy McMillan, Cincinnati shortstop, throws to Billy Martin for a force play on Aaron. But when Martin tosses the ball to first to make a double play, the Cincinnati first baseman drops it and both Bruton and Logan score. Mathews holds first.

The first baseman meanwhile retrieves the ball and throws to catcher Ed Bailey in a futile effort to get Logan. Bailey, noting Aaron standing between second and third, throws to third baseman Willie Jones. In an ensuing run-down, Aaron is tagged out—for the second time on the play.

As the teams change sides, the Braves manager queries the umpire and is told that "a player who is out cannot continue to run bases. Therefore he is out." Was he right?

Answers to Problems 40-42

40. Let the run count.

The baserunner should not be penalized for the umpire's negligence.

No written rule specifically governs the play, but it is clear that if Pilarcik had been thrown out at the plate, the Orioles would have no protest on the call.

41. The ball becomes dead [See Sections 7.09j and 2.00 Interference (a)] when the umpire rules interference by the batter. That makes an out on Hoak impossible, and the proper move is to send him back to third.

In the actual game, the umpire stuck to his decision and the manager continued the game under protest. When his club won despite the umpire's error, the protest was withdrawn, so the double interference stood.

Under scoring rules, the defensive player nearest the play on an interference call receives credit for the put-out. Thus on the double interference—from batter and base runner—the catcher gets credit for an unassisted double play even though he never touched the ball.

42. The umpire garbled the rule. Not Aaron but Mathews may be called out for Aaron's extra-legal activity. (See Section 7.09f. "It is interference when any batter or base runner who has just been retired hinders or impedes any following play being made on a base runner. Such base runner shall be declared out for the interference of his teammate.")

If Aaron had been out twice, the inning still would not have ended. Under Section 5.07, "three offensive players" must be put out before the inning is ended.



43. How often can an umpire change his mind on a play that does not involve his judgment? Here in a simulated major-league setting is an unusual incident along this line from an actual minor-league game.

Assume that the Yankees trail Detroit, 4-3, as they come to bat in the sixth. With one out, successive singles by Bobby Richardson, Tony Kubek and Mickey Mantle fill the bases. Then Yogi Berra smashes a hard grounder to Detroit third baseman Eddie Yost. Yost steps on his base for a force on Kubek and throws to catcher Lou Berberet.

Richardson, nearing the plate, slows down as Berberet throws to first base in time to beat Berra. Before the ball reaches first, however, Richardson crosses the plate.

The umpire rules "no run," but when it is pointed out to him that Richardson scored before the third out, he reverses his decision and lets the run count.

If you were the Detroit manager, would you be satisfied with that ruling?

(See Page 70 for answer.)



44. How far toward second can a batter go and still claim he was simply overrunning first base? Here, in a simulated major-league setting, is a play of this kind.

Say the Boston Red Sox lead the Detroit Tigers, 4-2, as Detroit bats in the last of the eighth. The Boston pitcher, with two out, suddenly weakens. Harvey Kuenn and Charlie Maxwell rap out singles. Eddie Yost's infield hit is bobbled, enabling Detroit to load the bases.

Bob Wilson comes to bat and takes a three-two count. Then the Sox pitcher makes a wild throw—the fourth ball. It caroms off the catcher's glove toward the Sox bench. Wilson, hoping to reach second, breaks for first at top speed, but slows down when the coach signals that the Sox catcher is on top of the ball. Kuenn and Maxwell score, and Yost advances one base.

The Sox catcher throws to first as Wilson crosses the bag. Before Wilson can return, the Sox first baseman tags him. The Tigers roar that he cannot be put out, as rules permit him to overrun first base. Are they right?

(See Page 70 for answer.)



45. Two umpires in a major-league game recently ruled in opposite ways on the same play, as follows:

In the fifth at Busch Stadium, with St. Louis trailing Chicago 4-1, one out, and the bases loaded, Ken Boyer sends a liner arching into left field. A Cub outfielder comes up with the ball, but the third-base umpire rules that he caught it only after it had touched the ground. The second-base ump, however, waves a clean catch.

The St. Louis manager, coaching at third, sees only the third-base-umpire's signal and sends home his base runners, Bob Nieman from third and Hal Smith from second. The Cub outfielder promptly relays the ball to second base and the umpire there calls a final out on Smith. After a fifteen-minute argument, his decision stands. Nieman's run is counted as having been made before the third out, but Smith is out for leaving base too soon. The Card Manager protests the game on the ground that he waved Smith home only after seeing the third-base umpire's "no-catch" signal. How would you settle it?

(See Page 70 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 43–45

43. The umpire must “un-reverse” himself as he did in the actual game. No run may score if the batter fails to reach first base safely. (See Section 4.09a which says in part: “A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made . . . by the batter-runner before he touched first base.”)

44. The Tigers stated the rule correctly—but Maxwell is out anyhow.

Section 7.02 as quoted by the Tigers says in part: “In running to first base (the runner) may overrun or overslide first base provided he return to the base at once.”

This rule does not distinguish between running on a batted ball and a base on balls, but rules arbiters agree that it gives leeway only to a runner advancing to first on a batted ball. Hence, Maxwell is out.

45. The protest was denied on the ground that the final decision of the umpires must prevail. (Section 9.01c: “Each umpire has authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in the rules.”) As no rule covered this dilemma, what the umps said settled it.



46. Incredibly enough, a batter may already be on base when his turn to bat comes up. This freakish situation can occur when two players bat in reverse order.

Let's say that just before the San Francisco Giants meet the Pirates in Pittsburgh, the Giant manager switches the first two men in his batting order, but neglects to note the change on the line-up card he sends to the chief umpire. This reads: 1. Bressoud, 2. O'Connell, 3. Davenport, 4. Mays, and so on.

Under the unmentioned switch, O'Connell bats first and singles to left. Bressoud draws a base on balls. The first pitch to Davenport is a called strike. Suddenly it dawns on the Giant manager that his batting order is in a tangle. He asks the umpire to straighten things out.

As a ball has been pitched to Davenport, Bressoud is confirmed under the rules as the proper preceding batter. This means O'Connell, not Brandt, should now be at bat. But O'Connell is on second. What would you do?

(See Page 74 for answer.)



47. A ripsnorting controversy developed among rules experts last season over a conflict between playing rules and scoring rules. Here, in a hypothetical big-league setting, is what happened:

Say the Giants lead the Cardinals, 3-2, as the Cards come to bat in the ninth at San Francisco. With two men out, Ken Boyer raps an infield hit. He moves to third on a Texas League double by Bill White. Stan Musial is intentionally passed to load the bases.

Gene Oliver tops a slow roller toward Ed Bressoud at shortstop. By the time Bressoud reaches the ball, all he can try is a possible force play at second. Musial's slide beats the throw to second, but his momentum carries him past the bag. Meanwhile Boyer crosses the plate with the tying run. But does it count? Musial is tagged for the third out before he can return to the bag.

The Giants swarm out on the field claiming a force-out at second and saying Boyer's run doesn't count. They argue that Musial technically never reached second because he was tagged out after oversliding, and claim a 3-2 victory. How would you rule?

(See Page 74 for answer.)



48. The "batted balk" continues to confound rule makers hunting for a permanent satisfactory answer. Maybe they finally have it under a new rule. But here in a simulated major-league setting is a batted-balk play on which the rules have been changed twice in the past two seasons.

Say the Dodgers and Redlegs are tied, 2-2, in the sixth at Cincinnati. Duke Snider opens the Los Angeles batting with a single down the right-field line. The Redlegs pitcher, on his first pitch to Gil Hodges, fakes a throw to first base and with the same motion hurls the ball to the plate.

The home-plate umpire immediately rules a balk, but Hodges slashes at the ball and drives a line single into right centerfield. Hodges reaches first safely.

Snider rounds second, tries to reach third base on the hit—and is tagged out on a fine throw by Redleg outfielder Gus Bell.

But does the balk call stand, or is Snider out?

If you were the umpire, how would you call it?

(See Page 74 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 46-48

46. Keep O'Connell on second and Bressoud on first. Let Davenport remain at bat with the one-strike count.

The rule states "Skip over the batter who is on base because of the opponents' indifference or lack of alertness when he batted out of turn." (Section 6.07, Play [6].)

47. The run counts, making the game a 3-3 tie.

Scoring rules deny a base to a runner who overslides and is tagged out as on a two or three base hit (Section 10.07c) or a steal (10.14e).

While this play was at one time considered a force play, present rules allow the run:

"The force is removed as soon as the runner touches the base to which he is forced to advance, and if he overslides or overruns the base, the runner must be tagged to be put out." (7.08e)

Thus the force was eliminated when Musial touched second, giving Boyer time to score before Musial was tagged out.

48. The balk is disregarded and Snider is out.

Section 8.05b provides:

". . . It is a balk when the pitcher . . . feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw. . . . Penalty—The ball is dead and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out, unless the batter reaches first base on a hit . . . and all other runners advance at least one base, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk."

As Hodges reached first on a hit and Snider got to second safely, the balk is eliminated and the put-out play on Snider at third counts.



49. If an offensive player flings a bat or cap at a foul ball to prevent it from rolling fair, he is immediately called "out." Suppose a defensive player throws his glove for the same purpose? What happens to him?

Say the Cleveland Indians come to bat in the top of the eighth in a 3-3 tie with the Baltimore Orioles. Vic Power flies out. Tito Francona beats out a leg hit to shortstop, and Russ Nixon sends him to third base with a long single.

The squeeze is put on as Al Cicotte comes up. Cicotte promptly bunts along the third-base line—in foul territory. When the ball twists toward fair ground, the Oriole pitcher throws his glove at it. The glove hits it and holds it outside the foul line.

Meanwhile Francona scores, Nixon moves to second and Cicotte gets to first base.

The Orioles claim the ball is dead, being a foul. The Indians counter that the Orioles must be penalized for interference. If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 78 for answer.)



50. With a runner on second, the batter in an actual game years ago hit a home run—but had a hard time collecting. For the runner tripped on third base, landed on his chin and knocked himself out. The batter reached him, and halted. To pass his fallen teammate meant to be called out. So he picked up the man in his arms, carried him to the home plate, set him down, and then touched home himself. The umpire properly allowed both runs.

To give the situation a new wrinkle, let's assume that the Phils come to bat against the Cardinals in Philadelphia in the last of the ninth with the score tied, 2-2.

With two out and the bases bare, the Phil batter blasts a homer into the bleachers. As he jogs past first base amid the roars of applause, he stumbles and goes down in a heap with a twisted ankle.

Knowing the game will be over if only he can reach home, he tries to hobble, then crawl, but he obviously can't make it.

What would you do in a situation like this one?
(See Page 78 for answer.)



51. A masterminding manager of a minor-league club recently had the umpires madly combing the rulebook over a new dodge he pulled. Here, in a synthetic major-league setting, is what actually happened:

Say the Cubs are at bat against the Dodgers in the seventh inning of a 2-2 tie game. With two out, Irv Noren is nicked by a pitched ball. He goes on to third base on Ernie Banks' sizzling double down the right-field foul line. An intentional pass is ordered for the next Cub batter, Walt Moryn. The Dodger pitcher gives him three balls, all nearly wild pitches. His manager, unwilling to risk such erratic delivery, decides to rely on an obscure rule which requires the ump to call a ball if the pitcher fails to throw within a reasonable time.

The Dodger pitcher refuses to pitch for fully a minute. At that point, the umpire calls "Ball four!" and waves Moryn to first base. But the Cub manager storms out, protesting. How would you have called it?

(See Page 78 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 49-51

49. Rule it a foul ball. Send the runners back to their bases and put Cicotte back at bat with a one-strike count.

Oddly enough, though there is a penalty when a defensive player throws glove, cap or mask at a fair ball (Section 7.05a-b-c), there is now none when a foul is involved. Only the team at bat is punishable for interfering with a foul ball (Section 7.09c).

50. Put in a substitute and call for a doctor.

A new rule allows substitutions when "an accident to a runner is such as to prevent him from proceeding to a base to which he is legally entitled, as on a home run hit out of the playing field, or an award of one or more bases, in which case a substitute runner shall be permitted to complete the play." (Section 5.10b)

51. Call it a balk, not a ball. The call of balls is in order only when there are no runners on base. (Section 8.04) If there are runners, "it is a balk when the pitcher unnecessarily delays the game." (Section 8.05h)

So, each runner is entitled to one base. Noren scores and Banks moves to third. The count on Moryn remains 3-and-0.



52. Pitchers' balks are nothing new, but balking umpires are. Here's a startling situation from an actual major-league game in which all four umps were unready or unwilling to make a decision.

It's New York at Detroit, with the Tigers leading, 2-1, as the Yankees come to bat in the seventh. Andy Carey is walked, Mickey Mantle singles to right field. Carey rounds second, but retreats when Tiger outfielder Al Kaline fires the ball to the infield. Shortstop Harvey Kuenn tags Carey as he dives for the bag. Then chaos descends.

The second-base umpire failed to see the play in his own territory, as he went into short right field when the ball was hit and did not turn in time. Neither first- nor third-base ump covered the play, and the umpire in chief, behind the home plate, was too far away to call it.

Despite the red-hot howls of the Detroit manager, none of the four umpires will declare the Yankee base runner safe or out. What would you decide in this situation?

(See Page 82 for answer.)



53. When the catcher tips the batter's bat, the umpire calls interference and the man at bat is awarded first base. But what happens when the batter unintentionally deflects a catcher's throw with his bat? Here, in a simulated major-league setting, is an actual incident raising this question.

Say St. Louis and Milwaukee are deadlocked, 3-3, at County Stadium in the seventh. With one out, the Cards' Alex Grammas singles. Gene Oliver, next up, is signaled to hit and run on the first pitch. Grammas breaks for second with the pitch. Oliver swings and misses. The Braves' catcher tries to throw to second, but Oliver's bat is in the way. The ball thuds off the bat and rolls back into the Braves' dugout.

If you were umpiring, what would you do now?
(See Page 82 for answer.)



54. A fielder can sometimes pull a boner by catching a foul ball. For if there is a runner on third and only one out, the catch may enable the runner to tag up and score. On realizing that, fielders have hastily dropped the ball. Here is such a play, based on an actual major-league incident of last year.

Suppose the White Sox are ahead of the Yankees, 3 to 2, at the start of the ninth inning in New York. Jim McAnany is walked. He darts for second base on the first pitch to Geene Freese. Freese tips a foul directly back to the catcher. The ball enters the catcher's mitt and is covered, but he opens his hands and lets it drop. McAnany reaches second. But is he entitled to remain there?

On a legally caught foul tip, the ball remains in play and runners may advance without tagging up. On an intentionally dropped foul tip, however, how would you rule if you were umpiring?

(See Page 82 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 52-54

52. The runner is safe on second. It is an unwritten baseball law that a runner is always safe until the umpire calls him out. No official rule covers the point because it never occurred to the rule makers that all four umpires in a major-league game would balk at making a decision.

53. Send Grammas to third base, and keep Oliver at bat with one strike against him.

There is no rule which covers the situation exactly, but the Playing Rules Committee has held that it comes under Section 7.05g: "Each runner . . . may . . . advance . . . two bases when . . . a thrown ball goes into the stands or into a players' bench."

The batter may not be called out unless the umpire is convinced that his interference was deliberate.

54. No rule covers this situation, but in the actual game an American League umpire permitted the runner to remain on second and the batter to continue at bat with one strike against him. The one rule on deliberate dropping of a batted ball (Section 6.05l) applies only to fair-hit balls, not fouls.



55. Interference or not? Here, in a hypothetical major-league setting, is a tough play for the umpire to decide.

Say the Cardinals and Reds are tied, 1-1, in the last of the ninth at Cincinnati. Eddie Kasko opens with a double down the right-field line. As Vada Pinson grounds out, Eddie goes to third.

Gus Bell lifts a pop foul high in front of the St. Louis bench. Cardinal catcher Hal Smith runs to the top step of the dugout, stretches far in and snags the ball. Just as he appears certain to fall into the dugout, a St. Louis sub grabs him and holds him up.

The Reds claim interference. They argue that if Smith had fallen into the dugout after the catch, Kasko would be entitled to advance one base, giving them the winning run. If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 86 for answer.)



56. Some rules aid the defense, some the offense. Here is an odd situation, based on an actual major-league play, where the rules led to a surprising decision.

Say the Milwaukee Braves lead the Chicago Cubs, 4-3, at Chicago, as the Cubs bat up in the seventh. With one out, Ernie Banks hits a single to right field. He moves to third on a ground single by Walt Moryn.

Billy Williams arches a fly deep to right center. Banks tags up, but Moryn, off at the crack of the bat, is almost to third when the coach's frantic shouts turn him back.

Milwaukee outfielder Bill Bruton hauls down the ball and throws it to the shortstop, who touches second ahead of Moryn. Moryn continues back to first, and the ball is relayed there ahead of him to make doubly sure he is out. But Banks, who broke for home after the catch, already has crossed the plate.

Does his run count?

(See Page 86 for answer.)



57. The two major leagues still differ over interpreting some rules. Here is a play, in a hypothetical major-league setting, which causes sure-fire controversy.

Say the Kansas City Athletics, trailing Detroit 3-2 in the bottom of the eighth, come to bat with Bob Cerv leading off. Bob hits a bloop single to center. Leo Posada, following orders, then bunts. His flung bat flies down the third-base line. The slow-moving ball thumps against the bat and rolls foul.

Posada and Cerv get safely to first and second, respectively. But the Tiger manager protests that Posada is out for interfering, intentionally or otherwise, with a batted ball.

If you were the umpire, how would you rule?
(See Page 86 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 55-57

55. Do not call interference. Kasko remains on third.

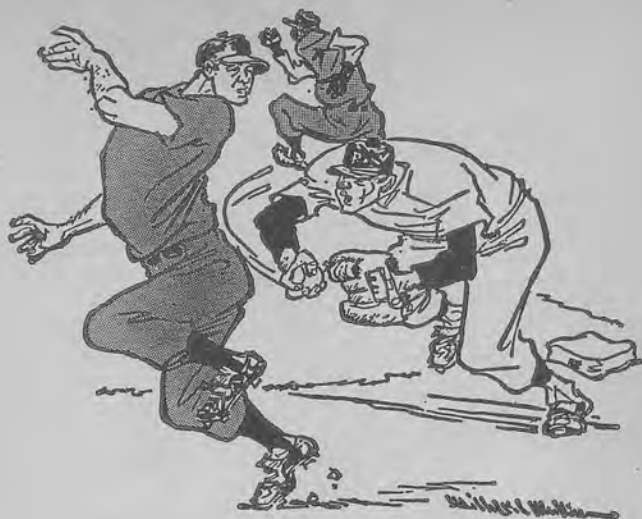
Interference can be called only in the instances listed in the rules. The rules do not list this play.

56. Banks' run counts. Moryn's base was first, not second. He could be put out only by a touch at first or by being tagged with the ball while returning. Therefore Banks scored before Moryn was retired for the third out.

(Section 7.10a: "Any runner is out, on appeal before the next legal pitch, when after a fly ball is caught, he fails to re-touch his base before he or his base is tagged.")

57. Under an American League regulation, Posada is out for interference and Cerv returns to first base. (The regulation reads: "If, after having hit or bunted a ball to fair territory, his bat again hits the ball on or over fair territory and deflects its course, the batter is out and other base runners cannot advance.")

However, National League umpires would rule this a fair ball and let the play stand. (Section 6.05h of the playing rules says in part: ". . . If the batter-runner drops his bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and, in the umpire's judgment, there is no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is alive and in play.")



58. Can a force play be executed when no base is touched? Here the situation, based on an actual play, is posed in an assumed major-league setting.

Say Los Angeles and Pittsburgh are in a scoreless tie as the Dodgers come to bat in the fourth. Sandy Amoros is walked. Don Zimmer and Gil Hodges are retired on pop flies. Duke Snider doubles to left center, and Amoros stops at third. Now the Pirate pitcher intentionally walks John Roseboro to load the bases.

Carl Furillo, with the count one-and-one, slaps a lazy grounder to the Pirate third baseman. Snider, who has left second, holds up to avoid colliding with the fielder who gets the ball. When the fielder moves to tag him, Snider scoots for second, but is overtaken and tagged out. Before the out, however, Amoros has crossed the plate.

If you were umpiring, would you count his run?

(See Page 90 for answer.)



59. Some baseball rules are "stranger than fiction." Take the rule governing this actual case of umpire's interference, retold here in a simulated major-league setting.

Say Baltimore, coming to bat in the last of the sixth, trails Boston, 3-2. With one out, Gus Triandos hits a double. Jack Fisher then runs a two-two count before fanning on a third strike. The ball, however, pops out of the catcher's mitt and lands at the umpire's feet. Fisher darts to first, while Triandos holds at second.

The catcher snatches the ball to throw it to first. But his hand hits the umpire's protector. The ball flies into the air. By the time the catcher has recaptured it, Triandos is on third and Fisher is on first.

But what about the umpire's interference with the catcher?

(See Page 90 for answer.)



60. A wind-blown fly ball can make clowns of both outfielder and umpire. Take this hypothetical major-league situation:

Philadelphia, say, trails San Francisco, 4-2, as the Phils bat in the last of the sixth. With one out, Al Dark spanks a single to left. He moves to second when Joe Koppe is hit by a pitched ball. Dave Philley now lifts a high one into right field.

A strong gust of wind sweeps the ball back to the infield as the Giant outfielder moves to get under it. It comes down just beyond the base path. The fielder waves off the Giant first baseman, who might have made an easy catch, and dives desperately for the ball. He misses. The ball skirts into the outfield. Dark and Koppe score. Philley does also when the ball, finally recovered, is thrown wildly past the Giant catcher.

The Phils now have a 5-4 lead. Or do they? How would you call it?

(See Page 90 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 58-60

58. The run does not count.

Section 7.08e permits a tag or touched base on a force play: "Any runner is out when he fails to reach the next base before a fielder tags him or the base after he has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner."

Also Section 4.09a: "A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made. . . . by any runner being forced out."

59. Ignore the interference. The runners keep their gains.

Because Triandos ran only after the ball was dropped, and the catcher was not trying to keep him from stealing a base, he is entitled to advance. See Sec. 2.00, Interference: "Umpire's interference occurs when an umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base. . . ." As currently construed, Sec. 2.00 overrules Sec. 5.09b, which requires the return of any runner who advances.

60. Dark and Koppe score, but Philley is out under the infield-fly rule.

(Section 2.00: "An INFIELD FLY is a fair fly ball . . . which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders. . . .")

Since the Giant first baseman was in position to make the catch, Philley should be called out.



61. One of baseball's unexpected bombshells involves the base runner who gets hit by a batted ball. In the 1955 World Series, Phil Rizzuto was put out that way while sliding into third. Here is a similar play, actual but in a hypothetical setting, which ended even more oddly than the World Series one.

Say Chicago and Detroit are tied, 3-3, in the top of the seventh at the Motor City. Al Smith, walked, steals second after the next two batters are pop-fly victims. Sherm Lollar runs up a three-two count, then smacks the ball down the third-base line.

Smith, who had taken a long lead, reaches third just ahead of the ball. His momentum carries him past the base. The ball caroms off the base and hits him in foul ground. The Tigers claim he is out, having been hit by a batted ball which did not pass a fielder.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?
(See Page 94 for answer.)



62. With a runner on first, National League umpires stand between the mound and second base, American League umps behind the base. Here is a hypothetical happening, based on an actual game, which couldn't have occurred in the American League.

In the first inning at San Francisco, say, the Pittsburgh Pirates are held scoreless. Ed Bressoud opens a Giant attack with a single to right field. Willie McCovey, after taking a one-one count, drives the ball over the pitcher's mound. The ball skips cleanly by the pitcher and heads for the umpire. He leaps to avoid it, but it strikes the heel of his shoe and is deflected into the hands of second baseman Bill Mazerowski.

Mazerowski flips the ball to the Pirate shortstop for a force-out of Bressoud. There is no play on McCovey. He reaches first base safely. But the Giants cry "Interference!" at the deflection.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 94 for answer.)



63. Despite repeated changes to make it clear, the balk rule still perplexes many umpires. It halted a major-league game last year while it was argued at length. Here, in a hypothetical setting, is the play.

Say the Baltimore Orioles are batting in the second inning of a scoreless game at Chicago. Billy Klaus, lead-off man, reaches first on a White Sox boot. Al Pilarcik then works pitcher Billy Pierce for a three-two count.

Pierce, toeing the pitcher's plate, feints a throw to first. Instead of completing the throw, as rules require, he spins and starts to pitch to the batter. Instantly, the first-base umpire calls a balk on him. The plate umpire chimes "Time!" The pitch proves to be a wide ball. Pilarcik walks to first and Klaus trots to second.

But there is an immediate hubbub. The arguers quote the balk rule, Section 8.05, which provides: "The ball is dead, and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out, unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk." What about the call of "Time!" however? What would you do?

(See Page 94 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 61-63

61. Smith is safe. He would be out only if hit in fair territory.

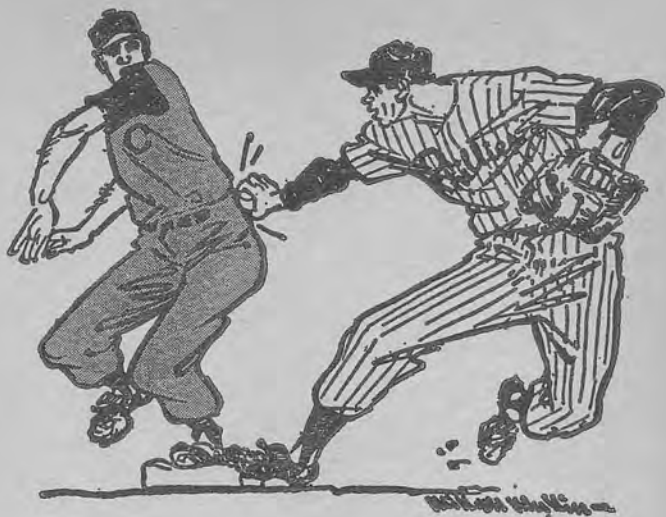
(Section 7.08f: "Any runner is out when he is hit by a fair ball in fair territory before it has touched or passed an infielder.")

62. Place Bressoud on second, McCovey on first and credit McCovey with a base hit. No one is out.

When a batted ball strikes an umpire before passing a fielder (except the pitcher), the ball is instantly dead and runners hold their bases or advance one base if necessary to make room for the batter. (Section 5.09g and 6.08d)

63. Under the decision made by the umpires in the actual game, Klaus would advance to second base on the balk. Pilarcik, however, would return to bat with a three-two count because time was called between the balk and the pitch.

Properly, though, the balk call must be suspended until the play on the pitch is completed. The umpire erred in calling time.



64. There's an old saying that anything is possible in baseball. But here is a play that is impossible.

Let's assume the Redlegs are at the bat in the ninth inning of a 2-2 tie game in Philadelphia. Roy McMillan leads off with a base hit. Frank Robinson's single sends McMillan to third. Gus Bell is walked, loading the bases.

Now Willie Jones hits a lightning grounder to third. The Phils' third baseman, Ted Lepcio, pulls in the ball. In the same instant, he touches both the base and McMillan, who is standing on the base.

Lepcio throws to second, but too late to catch Bell. Jones reaches first safely. Robinson is out, of course, on the force play at third.

But what about McMillan? If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 98 for answer.)



65. The rules underscore that batting out of order is the most perplexing thing in the game. More space is devoted to it than to any other problem. Here, in a hypothetical setting, is a play which adds to the general confusion.

Say the Chicago Cubs are batting at Milwaukee in this order: 1. T. Taylor, 2. Altman, 3. Thomas, 4. Banks, 5. Moryn, 6. Noren, 7. S. Taylor, 8. Averill, 9. Hobbie.

Tony Taylor opens with a single. Altman goes out on a slow roller to the mound, Tony meanwhile moving to second. Thomas pops to the shortstop. Banks should be the next hitter. Instead, Noren steps to bat. He hits a long fly for the third out. Nobody protests his batting out of order.

The Braves take their licks, are put out, and the Cubs come to bat again. But who is the proper batter?

(See Page 98 for answer.)



66. A player who tries, by word or sign, to incite a demonstration among spectators can be banished from the game and playing field under Rule 4.06. Use of this rule in an actual game created a remarkable situation. Here is what happened, and what resulted from it:

Detroit, batting in the top of the sixth inning, leads Boston 3-0. With one out, Charlie Maxwell doubles. He holds his base as Frank Bolling flies out to right field. Red Wilson grounds an infield hit behind second. Maxwell scores on a very close play at the plate. The Boston catcher sharply challenges the decision. So does the Sox manager. The umpire won't be budged, of course. In disgust, the catcher lobs the ball into center field. For this, the umpire thumbs him out of the game under Rule 4.06. The Boston outfield makes no play on the ball.

Wilson, standing near first, starts around the bases. As Wilson rounds third, the umpire bends over to dust off the plate. He wields his whisk broom so long that Wilson has to hold up briefly before stepping on the plate. Boston promptly protests the run.

If you were umpiring, would you let the run count?

(See Page 98 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 64-66

64. Call McMillan safe at third. Baseball rules do not recognize dead heats. Therefore it is not possible for Lepcio to have touched both McMillan and the base simultaneously. One or the other must come first.

An ancient, unwritten law of umpiring is: "In case of a tie, favor the runner." Under that, the umpire must assume that Lepcio touched the base first, then McMillan. The base having been touched first, McMillan was no longer subject to a force play. The base is his again.

65. Sam Taylor. As no appeal was made on Noren, any batter other than Sam Taylor would be batting out of order at this point. Banks and Moryn have lost their turns at bat, but must take their proper places next time round. (See Section 6.07c.)

66. The umpire allowed Wilson's run.

The Boston protest was based on two contentions:

That Boston had only eight men on the field after the catcher's ouster, thus precluding legal play.

That there must have been a time-out while the umpire dusted the plate.

Both claims were rejected by the League office. A new rule clarifies the first situation, by permitting a "disqualified" player to remain in the game until the immediate play is complete (Section 9.01d). Whether an umpire ought to dust off home plate with a runner circling the bases is, however, still being argued.



67. Double penalty or double jeopardy? Here's a play, in a simulated major-league setting, which actually confronted a minor-league umpire with that prickly problem last year.

Say Milwaukee leads Cincinnati, 4-2, as the Redlegs come to bat in the last of the seventh inning at Crosley Field. Frank Robinson opens with a single to right. Roy McMillan then runs up a three-two count. On the crucial pitch, Robinson breaks for second. The Braves' pitcher uncorks a wild one. It skitters off the catcher's glove. The umpire shouts, "Ball four!"

Robinson steams for third. McMillan races to first with a stride calculated to carry him on to second base. Suddenly play halts. For the ball has dropped into the Redlegs' dugout.

The ump scratches his head. Under one rule, McMillan is entitled to a base for his walk. Under another, all runners are entitled to advance one base when a play from the mound goes into "out of play" territory.

If you were umpiring, where would you place McMillan? Where Robinson?

(See Page 102 for answer.)



68. The penalty against a "quick return pitch" has, for unknown reasons, disappeared from the rule book. Here, in hypothetical major-league setting, is a complication which could follow.

Say the Cubs come to bat in the last of the eighth at Chicago, trailing the Pirates, 2-0. Walt Moryn scratches an infield single. Moryn takes second as Alvin Dark grounds out to the first baseman.

The Pirate pitcher tallies two straight strikes on Ernie Banks. He then fires the ball back the instant it reaches his hand. Obviously it is a "quick return pitch" intended to catch the batter off balance for a third strike.

Banks, however, hastily pushes his bat forward, thumps a slow grounder to the Pirate shortstop and beats out the peg to first base. Moryn meanwhile holds at second.

If you were the umpire, what would you do?

(See Page 102 for answer.)



69. The umpire can be left in the dark, along with the rest of us, if the stadium lighting fails. Here in a simulated major-league setting is what could happen at a night game:

Assume the Yankees lead the Washington Senators, 4 to 3, as the Senators come to bat in the last of the ninth inning at Griffith Stadium.

Jim Lemon fouls out, Harmon Killebrew brightens Washington's hopes with a base hit to center. Bill Allison, with a one-one count, raps a sharp grounder to second baseman Bobby Richardson. Richardson accepts the chance and throws to shortstop Gil McDougald for a force play on Killebrew.

As Gil starts to throw to first baseman Moose Skowron for the double play that will end the game, the lights go out. The darkened stadium is in an uproar. After five minutes of quick repairs, the lights flash on again.

If you were umpiring, would you let the game proceed? How?

(See Page 102 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 67-69

67. Hold McMillan at first and Robinson at second.

When a pitch to the batter goes out of play, the runners advance one base from the base held at the time of the pitch. And if the pitch is a fourth ball, the batter is entitled to first base only.

(Section 7.05h: "Each runner including the batter-runner may . . . advance one base, if a ball, pitched to the batter . . . goes into the stand, or players' bench. . . . NOTE: If such wild pitch is ball four, the batter-runner is entitled to first base only.")

68. Send Banks back to bat with a two-nothing count, but move Moryn to third base.

Although you won't find it spelled out in the rules, a "quick return pitch" is a balk. In the absence of Section 8.05n, which used to cover such pitches, the official interpretation is that Section 8.05e on illegal pitches applies.

If Moryn had advanced to third on Banks' hit, however, no balk would have been called and Banks would have retained credit for his safety under Section 8.05 Penalty.

69. Cancel the out on Killebrew and send him back to first base. Send Allison back to bat with a one-one count. Play resumes as though the last pitch had never been made.

(See American League regulations: "In the event of the inability to complete a double play because of the failure of lights, no decision will be rendered. On restoration of the lights *play will start over from the pitch.*")



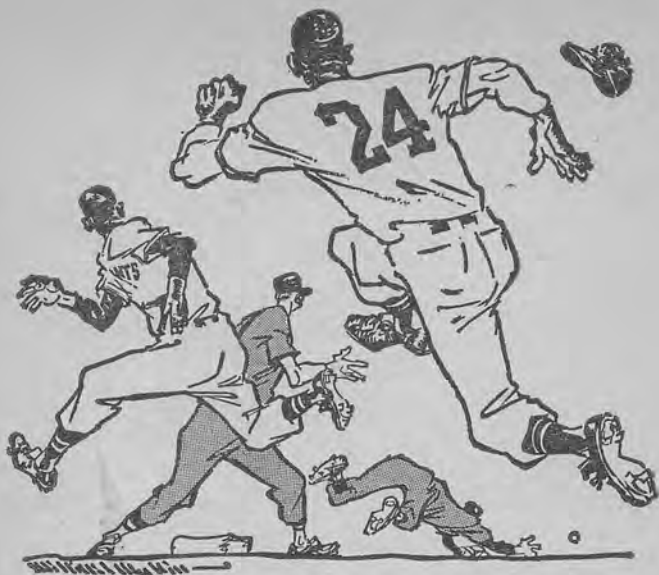
70. A base runner who is out but has not yet left the diamond, must avoid confusing or hindering a play on another runner. Here in a hypothetical major-league setting is an unusual mixup resulting from this situation.

Say the Dodgers lead the Cardinals, 4-1, as the Dodgers come to bat in the last of the seventh. Junior Gilliam laces a single to left. As Charley Neal comes to bat, hit-and-run is signaled. Gilliam starts off with the pitch. Neal slaps the ball and heads for first, but his hit is a foul pop. Catcher Hal Smith pulls it in. Noting Gilliam far off first, Smith pegs the ball there in a try at a double play. But the ball hits Neal in the back, as he sprints down the three-foot lane toward first base, and rebounds into the Dodger dugout.

Is Neal guilty of interference? If so, Gilliam, also, is out.

If you were umpiring, how would you call it?

(See Page 106 for answer.)



71. Sometimes baseball rules appear illogical. Take this simulated major-league scramble, based on a play which actually occurred elsewhere last year.

Say the San Francisco Giants and Milwaukee Braves are tied, 3-3, as the Giants come to bat in the last of the eighth. Willie Kirkland is walked. Willie Mays slams the ball far and deep into center field. The outfielder chasing it slips and falls heavily. The ball bounces to the center field wall and bounces about before the Braves' right fielder reaches it.

Meanwhile Kirkland crosses the plate with Mays behind him. But the Giants' first-base coach waves Kirkland back to second, for the coach noted that he failed to touch that base. Kirkland obliges, carefully touching home plate and third on the way back. He reaches second safely as the ball is returned to the infield. Mays is already in the dugout.

A big question arises. Can a runner score when a player ahead of him in the batting order is still on base?

If you were umpiring, would you let Mays' run count?

(See Page 106 for answer.)



72. The new rule to bar "stealing" first base by deliberately getting hit by a pitch probably won't eliminate such freakish situations as the following, presented here in a hypothetical major-league setting.

Assume Chicago trails Washington, 3-1, as the Sox come to bat in the end of the seventh. With one out, Nelly Fox thumps a single to right. As Earl Battey comes up, the hit-and-run signal is flashed. Battey leans far forward in the batter's box. Fox starts for second as the pitch is delivered. Battey pivots without swinging. His back is to the mound when the ball, curving over the inside corner, touches his elbow directly over the plate. The ball, scarcely deflected, is handled easily by Senator catcher Steve Korcheck. Seeing Fox scrambling back to first, Korcheck snaps the ball there. Fox is tagged a foot from the bag.

But Battey has been hit, however slightly, by the pitch. If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 106 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 70-72

70. Send Gilliam to third base. (See Section 7.05g.)

Neal, properly running in the three-foot lane, may not be charged with interference. If he had been outside or astride the lane when struck by the ball, Gilliam would have been out because of Neal's hindrance. (See Section 7.09f.) But a Case Book Note permits a batter or runner to advance properly even when out. It says: "He shall not by that act alone be considered as confusing, hindering or impeding the fielders."

71. A ruling by the Official Playing Rules Interpretations Committee was necessary on this one. Under it, Mays would be out. No runs count. Section 7.12, which reads in part: "Unless two are out, the status of a following runner is not affected by a preceding runner's failure to touch a base," was held inadequate in this case.

An 1897 rule, dropped from the books in 1931 for no apparent reason, would have covered the situation. It provided: "No base runner shall score a run to count in the game ahead of the base runner preceding him in the batting order, if there be such preceding base runner who had not been put out in that inning."

Oddly, if Kirkland had been thrown out while attempting to regain second base, Mays' run would have counted.

72. Put Fox back on first base and call a strike on Battey. The ball was dead as soon as it touched Battey. (Section 5.09a). Consequently, no legal play could be made on Fox.

The new rule reads: "If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or nor the batter tries to avoid the ball. . . ." (Section 6.08 (b) (2) NOTE)



73. It took a quick ruling from the Baseball Commissioner's office to halt base runners who were deliberately blocking batted balls to prevent double plays. Here in a hypothetical setting is how this rule works:

Say Philadelphia trails Cincinnati, 5-4, as the Redlegs come to bat in the bottom of the seventh. Gus Bell leads off with a single to right. Bell dashes to third when Roy McMillan doubles to left field. Jerry Lynch, pinch-hitting for the pitcher, coaxes a base on balls.

With the bases loaded, the Philly infield closes in for a possible play at home. Eddie Kasko grounds the ball toward third baseman Ted Lepcio. It looks like an easy double play, third baseman-catcher-first baseman. Bell, however, advancing from third, stops in his tracks and snatches the ball before Lepcio can reach it. He flips it to Lepcio and runs for the Redleg dugout.

If you were umpiring, what would you do next?

(See Page 110 for answer.)



74. Here in a hypothetical setting is an actual American League play of a few years ago which was so fantastic that a leading sports writer commented: "It really sounds as if some dimwit invented it, as it strains all the laws of probability."

Say the Boston Red Sox and the Orioles are in a scoreless tie at the end of the fifth inning in Boston. With one out, Ted Williams draws a base on balls. Jackie Jensen then works a count of three balls and two strikes. The next pitch goes high. Jensen swings and misses—strike three. But the Oriole catcher also misses. The ball zooms over his shoulder and sticks in the umpire's mask, a dead ball.

If you were umpiring, what would you do with Jensen and Williams?

(See Page 110 for answer.)



75. Old-style runners who back off the base to get a racing start after a fly ball is caught sometimes run into trouble. Here, in a simulated major-league setting, is an actual play of this kind.

Say Pittsburgh trails Chicago, 4-3, as the Pirates bat in the top of the seventh. With one out, Rocky Nelson walks. Dick Groat's single moves him to second. A wild pitch sends Nelson to third and Groat to second.

Bill Virdon now hits a deep fly to left centerfield. Nelson tags up at third, but Groat withdraws a few feet behind second to get a quick start. Cub outfielder Irv Noren catches the fly. Groat then touches second and swings to third. Nelson scores on the play.

The Cubs, however, rush the ball to second base and appeal. They claim Groat is out and Nelson's run doesn't count.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 110 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 73–75

73. The ball becomes dead the instant Bell touches it. So both Bell and McMillan, who reached third, are out. Put Lynch on second and Kasko on first.

This odd procedure, incorporated in the 1958 rules, is based on a decision by the Commissioner's office. It says: "If, in the judgment of the umpire, a base runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a batted ball, with the obvious intent to break up a double play, the ball is dead, the umpire shall call the runner out for the interference and also call out the immediate succeeding runner because of the action of his teammate. . . ."

74. The decision by the umpire in the actual game would have sent Jensen to first and Williams to second. That is right on Williams, wrong on Jensen.

Jensen is definitely out on strikes despite the rule which awards him first base. This rule, Section 6.05(b), Case Book Notes, says: "If, on the third strike (not a foul tip) the ball passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask . . . the batter shall be entitled to first base and other runners shall advance one base." Jensen, however, is already out under Section 6.05(c): "A batter is out when a third strike is not caught by the catcher; provided there is a runner on first base and not more than one is out."

75. Call Groat out, but count Nelson's run. Flying starts have been outlawed. Nelson, however, crossed the plate before the third out, which was not a force out, was allowed. So his run counts. (See Section 7.10a, Case Book Notes, and Section 7.12.)



76. Decisions on obstruction plays, left largely to the umpires, often put them on the spot. Here's a sizzler in a hypothetical major league setting.

Say the Detroit Tigers lead the Red Sox, 6-2, at Boston in the top of the seventh. Gail Harris leads off for Detroit with a single. Red Wilson's base on balls moves Harris to second. A sacrifice hit by Billy Hoeft sends Harris to third and Wilson to second.

The first throw to Harvey Kuenn is a pitchout. Catcher Sammy White's peg to second baseman Pete Runnels catches Wilson off base. In a rundown, Wilson heads for third with Harris standing on the base. The Sox shortstop rushes up between Wilson and third, and Wilson plows into him. The umpire calls, "Obstruction."

Under the rule (Section 7.06b), an obstructed runner is entitled to the base to which he was advancing. That would place Wilson on third. But what about Harris, who is still there?

If you were umpiring, what would you do?

(See Page 114 for answer.)



77. A runner who is hit by a batted ball is out unless the ball has passed an infielder. Here is an odd twist to the situation, based on an actual incident.

Let's say the Cincinnati Reds lead the San Francisco Giants, 5-4, as the Giants bat in the home half of the ninth. Ed Bressoud makes an infield hit and sprints to second on a passed ball. Hobie Landrith, ordered to bunt, lays down a beauty along the third-base line.

Cincinnati's third baseman, Willie Jones, with no chance for a play on Landrith, lets the ball roll along in hopes it will turn foul. He backtracks away from the ball as Bressoud slides toward third base. Then the ball gently nudges Bressoud.

If you were umpiring, would you call Bressoud out for being hit by a batted ball? Or what?

(See Page 114 for answer.)



78. In old-fashioned baseball, about A.D. 1840, the fielders had the option of throwing the ball at the runner instead of tagging him. If hit while off base, the runner was out—sometimes out cold. Here is a hypothetical play in modern big-league setting in which this happens accidentally.

Say the San Francisco Giants trail the Cincinnati Redlegs, 2-1, as the Californians come to bat in the last of the ninth. Jim Davenport opens with a single to right. He takes second on a wild pitch and moves to third on Jack Sanford's sacrifice bunt.

Bill White, batting for the pitcher, lifts a high fly into left field. Davenport tags up and breaks for home as the Redleg outfielder makes the catch. It looks like a close play at the plate. Then the outfielder's throw beans Davenport and he falls, just short of the plate, like a spent sputnik. Third Baseman Willie Jones snatches up the ball and tags him as he lies there.

If you were umpiring, how would you unravel this one?
(See Page 114 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 76–78

76. Hold Harris at third and send Wilson back to second. No rule precisely covers the play, but Section 7.05g, Case Book Notes, governs by implication. This provides that no runner may advance beyond the base to which he is entitled. As Harris has done nothing to entitle him to cross the plate, he must stay on third. Hence Wilson must return to second.

77. Bressoud is out. (National League ruling.)

Although Jones had ample time to field the ball, it is held that the ball technically has not passed an infielder as provided in Section 7.08f.

Place Landrith on first and award him a base hit. (Section 10.05e: "A base hit shall be scored . . . when a fair ball which has not been touched by a fielder becomes 'dead' by reason of touching the person or clothing of a runner or umpire. . . .")

78. Call "Obstruction" and award Davenport his run. The game continues, a 2–2 tie.

(Section 7.06a: "A batter who has become a runner is entitled to unimpeded progress as he advances around the bases. Whenever a fielder impedes the runner in any way, unless he is attempting to field a ball or has the ball in his possession, the umpire shall call 'Obstruction.'")



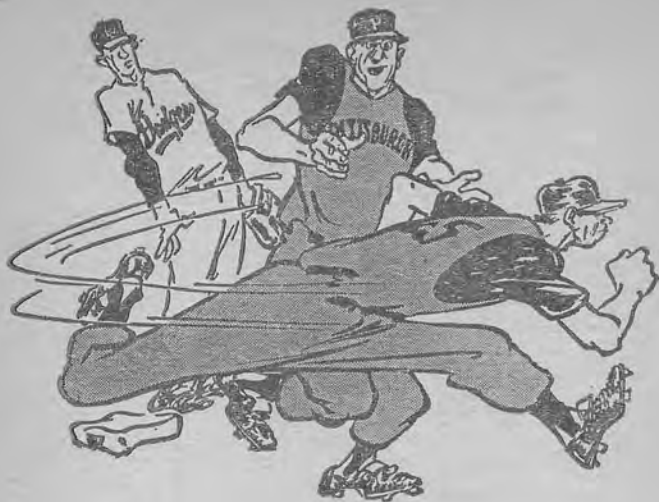
79. Quick thinking is an asset to any ballplayer, but sometimes it can be overdone. Here, in a hypothetical setting, is the case of a clever catcher who anticipated a play that never happened.

Say the Senators and White Sox are tied, 2-2, and the Senators come to bat in the bottom of the seventh inning. Steve Korcheck walks. Pedro Ramos is called on to bunt. Ramos' attempted sacrifice hit turns into a little pop-up in front of the plate.

Korcheck streaks for second, but the Sox catcher, sensing that he will hurry back to first base, gets his hands on the ball and then deliberately drops it. Picking it up, he whirls and throws to second in hopes of a force play on Korcheck. But Korcheck is already hugging the base. The relay to nab Ramos at first is too late.

The umpire, however, has his own ideas about the situation, inasmuch as it is illegal for a fielder to drop a fly ball or line drive intentionally. If you were umpiring, what would you do?

(See Page 118 for answer.)



80. Base running can create bewildering situations, but the umpire is expected to decide instantly. Here, in simulated major-league setting, is an unusual play which actually occurred.

Say the Los Angeles Dodgers and Pittsburgh Pirates are tied, 3-3, as the Pirates come to bat at Los Angeles in the sixth. Singles by Bob Friend and the next man up, and a walk to Bob Skinner, load the bases.

With two out, Dick Stuart runs up a three-two count. As the Dodger pitcher winds up, the Pirates on first and second break and run. Friend, however, is only a little way off third base. The Pirate runner from second rounds third and charges past him just after the umpire calls a fourth ball on Stuart. For passing Friend, the runner from second is declared out—the third out.

Immediately there is a major conflict. Is Friend entitled to a run because of the bases-full walk to Stuart (Section 7.04b)? Or is it impossible to score because of the third out (Section 4.09a)?

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 118 for answer.)



81. A hot argument usually ensues when a runner fails to tag a base. Here, in synthetic major-league setting, is a play which is truly booby-trapped with trouble.

Say Kansas City trails Boston, 2-1, as the A's bat in the last of the ninth. With two out and the bases empty, the A's batter drills a screaming liner into right center.

It looks like a three-bagger. The runner rounds second without quite touching the base, however. The Red Sox centerfielder meanwhile retrieves the ball and looses a wild heave toward third. The throw ends up in the visitors' dugout, with the ball dead.

On an overthrow like this, the runner is entitled to two extra bases. (Section 7.05g) But as he neglected to touch second—a point which the Red Sox apparently failed to notice—should he be put on third or home base?

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 118 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 79-81

79. Declare Korchek safe at second, but call Ramos out.

Curiously, the intentionally dropped ball is ruled a catch although advancing runners need not tag up.

(Section 6.051: "A batter is out when a fielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive, with first, first and second, first and third, or first, second and third base occupied before two are out. Runners need not re-touch and may advance at their own peril.")

80. Let Friend score his run.

In like cases, such rules authorities as John B. Foster and Billy Evans, both deceased, always held that "it is impossible to take away something to which you are entitled in baseball." Frank Shaughnessy, present interpretations member of the Playing Rules Committee, holds the same way. He would give Friend the run, although there is growing opposition to this thinking.

81. Send him home.

To place him on third would tip off the defensive club that something is amiss and could lead to an appeal at second base. Sending him home does not eliminate the right to appeal, but does protect his team in case the missed base is overlooked.



82. Can a team fail to win a game simply because its last batter belted a home run? Here in simulated major-league setting is an odd problem, indeed.

On an overcast afternoon in New York, after the Yankees have taken a 2-1 lead in the sixth, the Kansas City Athletics go ahead in the seventh with three runs.

With the score now 4-2, Gil McDougald leads off for the Yankees with a single to left. Mickey Mantle smashes a homer into the rightfield stand. It ties the count at 4-4. As Mickey rounds the bases, a torrential rain pours down. Time is called after he crosses the plate. With the field a quagmire, the umpires call off the game half an hour later.

Kansas City claims a 4-4 tie. The Yankees contend that as they never completed their half of the seventh inning, the score must revert to the last full inning—giving them a 2-1 win.

If you were umpiring, how would you decide?
(See Page 122 for answer.)



83. The most controversial rule in the book, over which rules makers have argued for decades, seldom figures in an actual play. But when it does, it always causes a rhubarb. Here in a simulated setting is an instance.

Say Boston trails Baltimore, 5-3, as the Sox bat in the last of the eighth inning. With one out, Don Buddin singles to left. A two-bagger by Pete Runnels moves Don to third. Gary Geiger, walked, loads the bases.

Frank Malzone, next up, raps a sharp grounder into right field but suddenly collapses near the plate with a pulled leg muscle. Buddin and Runnels score easily. The throw from right field is relayed to third and Geiger is put out short of the base. The ball now goes to first. Malzone, still on the ground holding his leg in despair, is declared the third out.

If you were umpiring, what would the score be now?
(See Page 122 for answer.)



84. Sometimes the umpire must decide a play in which he himself is involved. Here, hypothetically, is such a case.

Say Philadelphia and Los Angeles are tied, 3-3, as the Phils bat in the bottom of the sixth. With one out, Wally Post sends a double into right center. Jimmie Coker runs a two-two count, then, while Post starts for third, fans on a knuckle ball. But the ball gets away from the Dodger catcher.

Coker promptly breaks for first. The catcher quickly retrieves the ball and attempts to throw to third base. Just then, the umpire moves up too close. The catcher's throwing hand comes in contact with him. The ball bounces to the backstop.

Post rounds third and attempts to score, but is nailed at the plate on a throw from the catcher to pitcher Larry Sherry. Coker meanwhile moves to second.

If you were umpiring, what would you do about all this?

(See Page 122 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 82-84

82. It is a 4-4 tie.

(Section 4.11b: "A regulation drawn game shall be declared by the umpire-in-chief if he terminates play because of weather . . . if, after five or more completed innings, the home team is at bat when play terminates and scores enough runs in an incompleted inning to make its total score equal the visiting team's total score. . . .")

Had Mantle struck out, grounded into a double play, or even stopped at third base when the rain started, the score would have reverted to the previous inning and the Yankees would have won, 2-1.

83. The score is still 5-3 for Baltimore.

Neither Buddin nor Runnels scored, because the third out of the inning resulted from the batter's failure to reach first base safely. (Section 4.09). Many contend that runs scored before a nonforce second out are legal. But the rule against them still stands.

84. Send Post back to second, and Coker back to first.

The ball became dead when the umpire interfered with the catcher's throw. (Section 5.09b: "The ball becomes dead and runners return to their bases when the umpire interferes with the catcher's attempt to throw.") Coker is entitled to first base as a runner when the catcher failed to hold the third strike.

However, the umpire must be convinced the catcher's throw was intended for third base. Otherwise the play stands (2.00).



85. A pitcher may move temporarily from the mound to the outfield. But may a first baseman shift to second base for a single play? This question required a National League interpretation recently. Here, in hypothetical setting, is what happened.

Say Chicago holds a 3-0 lead in batting against the Redlegs in the third inning. Earl Averill singles to left. With pitcher Don Elston next at bat, a sacrifice is obviously in order.

In a new defensive twist, the Redleg manager orders first baseman Frank Robinson and second baseman Billy Martin to switch positions. The switch is promptly challenged by the Cub manager. He cites Section 1.14, which prohibits the wearing of mitts by fielders other than the catcher and first baseman. The Redleg pilot, however, upholds Robinson's right to cover second base with his mitt by quoting Section 4.03c: "Except the pitcher and the catcher, any fielder may station himself anywhere in fair territory."

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?
(See Page 126 for answer.)



86. Force plays frequently cause confusion. Here is one, in a changed setting, which resulted in a protested major-league game.

Say Cincinnati trails Philadelphia, 2-1, as the Reds bat in the bottom of the third inning. Singles, with none out, land Eddie Kasko on second and Billy Martin on first. Jerry Lynch attempts a sacrifice, but his bunt is a little pop-up toward the mound. Philly pitcher Jim Owens permits the ball to bounce at his feet before whipping it to the shortstop.

The runners have held their bases. Now the shortstop steps on second, tags Kasko and fires the ball to first. Lynch has arrived at first, and both he and Martin are on the bag. Second baseman George Anderson, covering the base, tags both.

Of the three runners, who is safe and who is out?
(See Page 126 for answer.)



87. An umpire's conference—one of those little clusters of men in blue—can lead to surprising decisions. Here, based on an actual play, is an instance of a real upset resulting from one.

Say Detroit leads Chicago, 2-1, as the Tigers bat in the last of the sixth. Frank Bolling opens with a double down the right-field line. He moves to third on Red Wilson's slow roller to first.

With the count one-and-one on the next Tiger batter, pitcher Ray Narleski, Bolling is signaled to steal home. He breaks for the plate as Sox pitcher Dick Donovan goes into motion. Then Narleski fouls the ball.

But the Tiger third-base coach protests loudly to the plate umpire that Donovan was off the rubber when he pitched, making the throw illegal. The umpire consults his colleagues and learns that Donovan was indeed off rubber.

If you were umpiring, what would you do now?

(See Page 126 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 85-87

85. The umpire permitted Robinson to cover second with his mitt. But it won't happen again. A prompt National League reinterpretation of the rules now says that if first and second basemen exchange positions, the new second baseman must put on a regular glove.

86. Kasko and Lynch are safe. Martin is out.

Kasko is safe because the Philly shortstop erred in touching the base before tagging the runner. Touching the base removed the force and gave Kasko the right to remain on second. It did, however, complete a force play on Martin and he is out. Lynch, of course, reached first base safely. The infield-fly rule, incidentally, does not apply in the case of a bunt. (Section 2.00)

87. Of all things, you must call Bolling out.

The protest backfired at the expense of the innocent base runner. Because Donovan was off the rubber, he was not a pitcher, but a fielder making a play at the plate on a runner attempting to steal. Narleski, hitting Donovan's pitch, unwittingly became guilty of interfering with the play. In such cases of interference, the runner attempting to steal home is out unless there are already two out, in which case the batter becomes the third out. (Section 7.08g.)

The foul does not count and Narleski returns to bat with a one-and-one count.



88. On a base on balls, the rule (Sec. 7.04b) is ponderously explicit: "Each runner, other than the batter, may without liability to be put out, advance one base when the batter's advance without liability to be put out forces the runner to vacate the base . . ." But does this always mean what it says? Take this hypothetical situation:

The Phils, trailing the Cubs 3-2, come to bat in the top of the ninth. With two out, singles by Wally Post, Harry Anderson and Ruben Amaro load the bases. Next, Valmy Thomas runs a three-two count. With the runners moving, the next pitch is high and outside. It slips past the Cub catcher and rolls to the screen. Post and Anderson score. Amaro dashes to third, and Thomas gets to first.

The Cub second baseman, however, calls for the ball, tags the base and appeals for a third out on grounds that Amaro failed to touch second. The observant base umpire agrees.

Now how many Phil runs count? Do they lead, 4-3; is the score tied, 3-3, or do the Cubs win, 3-2?

(See Page 130 for answer.)



89. An umpire must be wary of even a routine inspection of a ball. Here's a hypothetical instance of such a play that caused trouble.

Say the White Sox lead the Athletics, 4-3, as the A's bat in the bottom of the seventh. Bill Tuttle draws a base on balls and scoots home on Hank Bauer's double against the right-field wall. Tuttle, however, fails to tag home plate. Unaware of this, the second-base umpire calls for the ball to inspect it. The Sox catcher waves for it excitedly, hoping to put out Tuttle before he reaches the dugout.

Tuttle's teammates, having noted his error, shoo him back to the plate. While the base umpire still clutches the ball, Tuttle tags up and the umpire-in-chief signals safe.

The Sox manager protests that Tuttle should be sent back to third base, as that was the last base touched before umpire's handling of the ball created a time-out.

If you were chief umpire, how would you rule?

(See Page 130 for answer.)



90. Here is a really freak situation:

Say the Cardinals and Pirates, in the last game of a series in Pittsburgh, have played eight scoreless innings. Suddenly the lights fail. The game has to be suspended.

When the game is resumed a month later, a multiplayer deal has scrambled the line-ups. Jim Brosnan, who pitched all eight innings for the Cards, is now a Pirate. Harvey Haddix, who pitched for the Pirates, has become a Cardinal. The Pittsburgh manager decides to let Brosnan continue the game as a Pirate. The Cards' boss questions this. He points out that if the Cardinals make the only score in the ninth, Brosnan will be the winner for them and the loser for the Pirates. Can this be?

The umpire replies that he is not the official scorer. He permits Brosnan to pitch. As Brosnan was the first scheduled batter when the game was suspended, he theoretically is pitching against himself. Haddix, now a Cardinal, pinch-hits for Brosnan. He belts a homer. Then he pitches in the last of the ninth and blanks his former teammates. Brosnan is both winner and loser. Is it possible?

(See Page 130 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 88-90

88. No runs count. The Cubs win, 3-2.

Although the "advance without liability to be put out" clause appears to apply to Amaro, both major leagues now interpret the rule to permit a force play on an exempt runner who fails to touch an awarded base. As the force on Amaro makes the third out, no runs count. (Sec. 4.09a.)

89. Tuttle's run counts.

To have put Tuttle out, the pitcher must get the ball, step on the rubber (at which the umpire must call "Play!") and throw to the catcher. The catcher must tag the plate and appeal to the umpire to call the runner out for failure to touch home. (Sec. 5.11.) If at any time before the appeal, the runner returns and touches the plate, the run counts.

No one rule covers the situation adequately, but in plays like this, the team at bat holds a big edge.

90. Yes, Brosnan is both winning and losing pitcher.

Both major leagues have regulations permitting substitutions of this kind.



91. Here is a play which tangles rules into a knot.

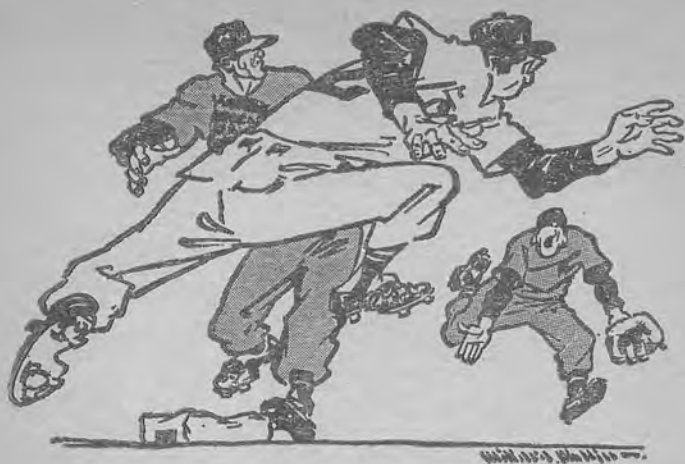
Say San Francisco leads Cincinnati, 5-3, as the Giants bat in the last of the seventh. Singles by Ed Bressoud and Jim Davenport, and a walk to Orlando Cepeda load the bases with none out. With Don Blasingame coming to bat, a squeeze is ordered.

Bressoud leaves third base as the Reds' pitcher goes into his windup, and slides across the plate just as the ball zooms into the strike zone. The ball hits Bressoud on the back. It then drops in front of the plate. The Reds' catcher picks it up and throws to third base in time for the baseman to tag Jim Davenport, coming from second.

The Reds' manager, meanwhile, charges interference by Bressoud. He claims that the pitch is the overriding part of any play, and that the Giant runner is out for interfering with the delivery. But that covers only part of the play.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule?

(See Page 134 for answer.)



92. Umpires are often tempted to ignore rules in favor of common-sense decisions. But do they dare? Here is a hypothetical play, based on an actual situation elsewhere, which raises the question.

Say Washington leads Baltimore, 6-5, as the Orioles bat in the last of the seventh. With one out, Al Pilarcik singles to left field. On a hit-run play, Jackie Brandt lifts a fly part way into right field. Pilarcik rounds second and heads for third. But the coach warns frantically that the ball may be caught.

Pilarcik runs halfway back to first base. Then, seeing the ball fall at the Washington fielder's feet, he scoots back to second. He slides to the bag just after the second baseman, standing on it, catches the ball and before the baseman can tag him.

Washington claims there is no need to tag him, as he is out on a force play. But the Orioles argue that the force was removed when Pilarcik first touched second base, and that he is entitled to the base unless tagged out.

If you were umpiring, how would you rule? Force or no force?

(See Page 134 for answer.)



93. The rule designed to speed up the game by curbing free substitution of pitchers can make for odd situations. Here is a hypothetical one:

Say the Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox are tied, 5-5, as Boston bats in the last of the eighth. Singles by Green and Stephens put Sox on first and third. The Tiger pitcher walks Sam White, loading the sacks. At this critical point, Boston substitutes Vic Wertz, a left-handed hitter. The Tigers counter by yanking their pitcher and sending in southpaw Don Mossi to pitch to Wertz. After Wertz whiffs at two curve balls, the Boston manager substitutes Jim Busby, a right-handed batter. Not to be outdone, the Tiger manager waves right-hander Ray Narleski to the mound for Detroit.

At that the Red Sox manager protests that Mossi must pitch to Busby. The Tiger pilot retorts that Mossi has complied with the rules by pitching to Wertz, himself a substitute.

If you were umpiring, how would you unscramble this one?

(See Page 134 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 91-93

91. Bressoud's run counts, and the ball is instantly dead. Place Davenport on third and Cepeda on second.

(Section 5.09j: "The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base . . . without liability to be put out, when any legal pitch touches a runner trying to score. . . .")

Call a strike on Blasingame as Section 6.05n provides when a pitch hits a runner in the batter's strike zone.

92. The rule (Sec. 7.01) says "a runner acquires the right to an unoccupied base when he touches it before he is out," and he is then entitled to it until put out. Nevertheless, major-league umpires would call Pilarcik out on a force play. They explain that he "gave up the base and became liable to be put out on a force."

Here is an instance of an umpires' decision which isn't backed by a rule. And if they are right, there ought to be a rule.

93. Mossi must pitch to Busby.

Section 3.05b requires that a substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat or any substitute batter until the batter is put out or reaches first base, or until the offensive team is put out.



94. Here is a strange play which occurred in an actual game elsewhere when a batter failed to run on a dropped third strike. In our hypothetical game let's say Milwaukee trails Los Angeles, 3-2, in going to bat in the top of the ninth inning. Dodger pitcher Don Drysdale gets the first batter out on a pop fly, but a single by Bill Bruton and a double by Joe Adcock place runners on second and third.

Drysdale bears down and strikes out the next batter. The third-strike pitch, however, gets away from the Dodger catcher and rolls to the screen. The batter, apparently thinking it was only the second strike, remains by the plate.

Bruton streaks home with the tying run. Adcock also tries to score, but a throw from the catcher to Drysdale nips Adcock at the plate. Drysdale then turns and tags the batter, still standing at the plate.

The Braves trot out for the last of the ninth, but the Dodger and Brave managers confer with the plate umpire. What happens next?

(See Page 138 for answer.)



95. The umpire will not permit a batter to step up to the plate without his bat. Yet it is possible for the batter to hit the ball with his fist. Take this hypothetical instance, based on an actual happening elsewhere:

Say San Francisco leads Chicago, 2-1, as the Giants bat in the last of the seventh. Hobie Landrith, leading off, runs up a three-two count. He swings hard at the next pitch, an inside fast ball. The ball thuds against his right fist and caroms into foul territory without ever being touched by the bat.

The Cubs claim Landrith is out on strikes. The Giants argue that it is merely a foul ball.

If you were umpiring, how would you call it?

(See Page 138 for answer.)



96. The most frequently violated rule in the book is the one on balks. Seldom does a pitcher in set position pause for the required "one full second" before his delivery to the plate. Here in a hypothetical setting is a balk play which has baffled many umpires.

Say the St. Louis Cardinals and Pittsburgh Pirates are tied, 3-3, as the Cards bat in the last of the eighth.

Ken Boyer coaxes a walk from Pirate pitcher George Witt. Faced by a bunt situation, Pirate first baseman Dick Stuart moves to the edge of the infield grass. As Witt comes to the set position, Stuart charges.

Witt, however, decides to make sure Boyer is not taking too long a lead. He turns to first base, steps toward the bag and suddenly sees Stuart halfway to the plate. Quickly he throws to Stuart, midway between first and home.

If you were the umpire, would you call a balk?

(See Page 138 for answer.)

Answers to Problems 94-96

94. The game is over. The Dodgers win, 3-2.

Bruton's run is canceled out by Section 4.09a, which reads in part: "A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made on the batter-runner before he touches first base."

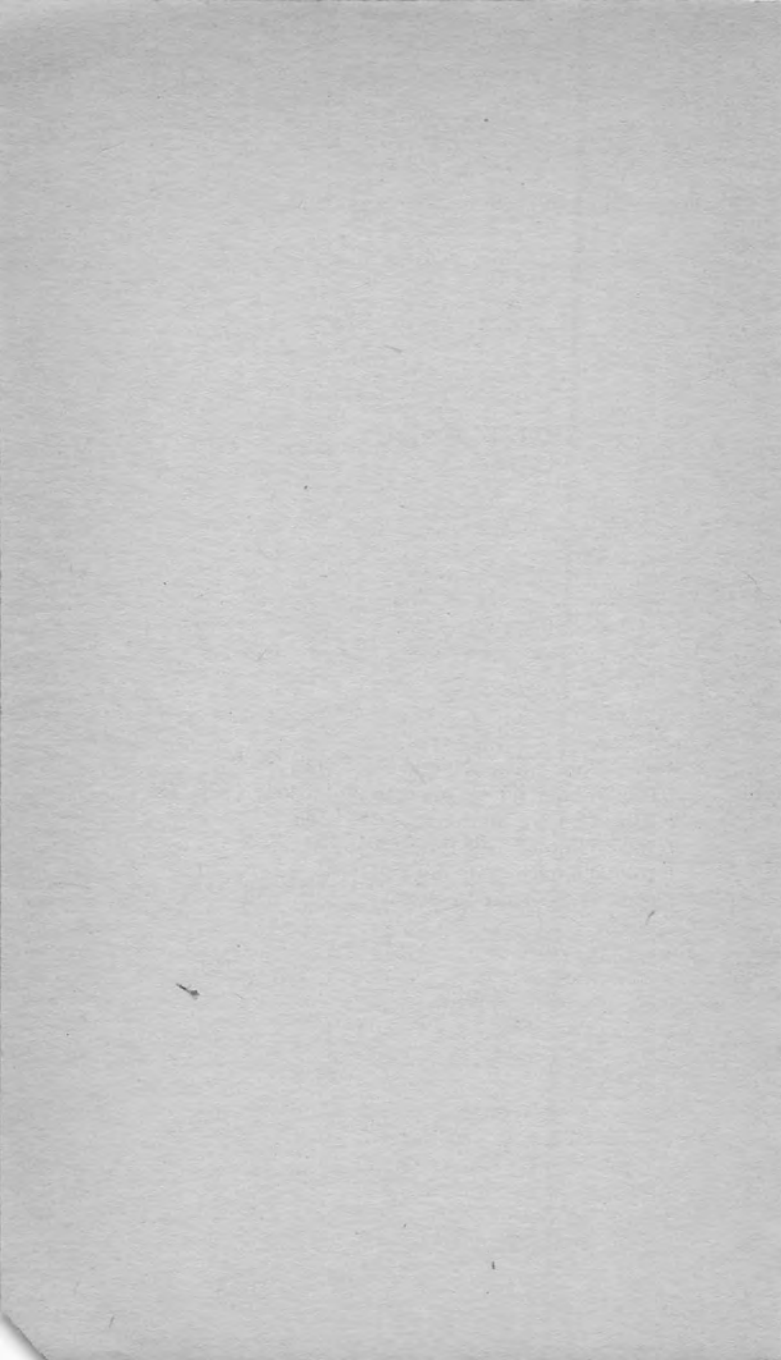
The batter became such a batter-runner after the dropped third strike.

95. Landrith is out. It is a third strike, as the ball touched only the batter's hand and not his bat. The rule (Sec. 2.00) says: "A strike is a legal pitch when so called by the umpire, which touches the batter as he strikes at it."

96. It is a balk. The ball must be thrown to the base, not the baseman. The rule (Sec. 8.05j) says: "... it is a balk when the pitcher, after coming to set position, removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch, or in throwing to a base."

So, send Boyer to second base.

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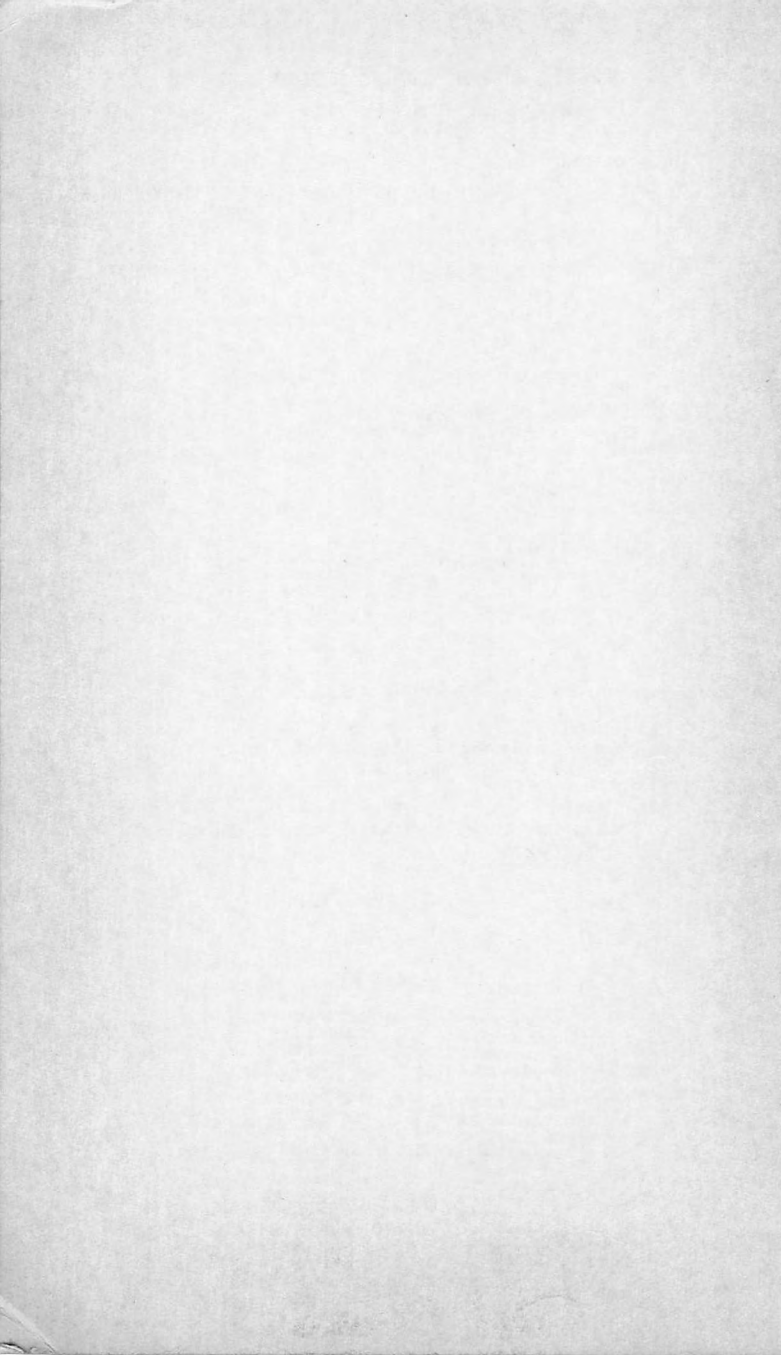
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IS THE UMPIRE ALWAYS RIGHT? ★ % # !

Hey there, you Armchair Experts, Rhubarb Lovers, Barroom Coaches and all you other baseball fans who think you know the game from plate huddle to final out, here's your chance to show your stuff.

Don't kill the umpire until you bat your wits against this challenging collection of baseball quizzes and problems. All questions are pitched straight from the official rule book, but we warn you some of them have some pretty wild curves. Anyway, you don't have to worry about the score. Nobody's counting.